PLAN BELIZE 2.0

The Belize Times

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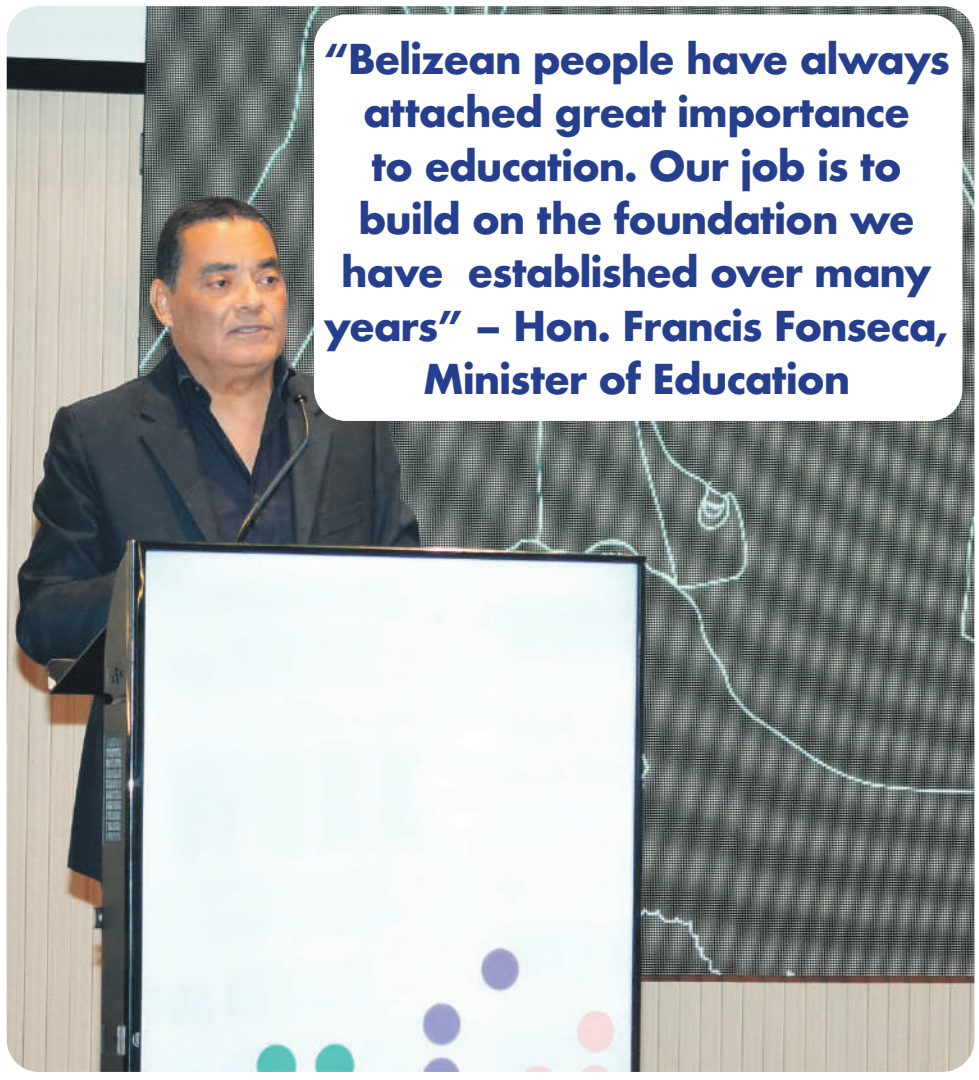
PORT PROJECT APPROVAL MORE PROSPERITY

"historic transformation to the country's central marine navigational channel, the Belize City harbour, the cargo port, the cruise tourism sector and most importantly, to the Port Loyal community".

PM Briceño Budget Presentation

$300M EDUCATION BESPlan 2.0 2026–2030 BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION



"Belizean people have always attached great importance to education. Our job is to build on the foundation we have established over many years" – Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education

BOLEDO APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026: $25 MILLION PROFIT; PAYOUT $94 MILLION TO PLAYERS
AGRIC INTERDISTRICT SUPPORT | GOB-JUNT | TAIWAN & MEXICAN AMBASSADORS

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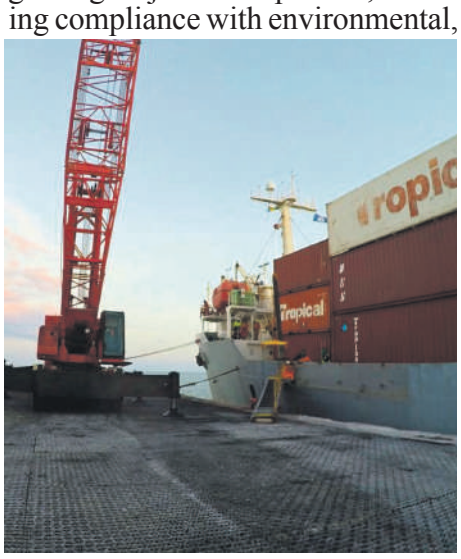
AUTISM: "STEP UP! BEYOND AWARENESS: CHOOSE ACTION"

Port Project Approval

NEAC GREENLIGHTS MODERNIZATION & EXPANSION OF PORT OF BELIZE

The Port of Belize Expansion & Modernization Project, that is being touted to bridge regional markets and become the country's gateway to global trade, overcame a major hurdle on the way forward, with the approval of the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC). The decision has considered that the project's proposed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is acceptable. It forms a part of a critical component and mandatory framework where the Department of Environment (DOE) receives recommendations for environmental clearance from technical experts regarding major developments, ensuring compliance with environmental, social, and sustainability standards.



NEAC is the authority that reviewed the EIA that was submitted by the interested developers and intended investors in the modernization and expansion of the Port of Belize Limited (PBL). Thereafter, the EIA is submitted to the DOE as to whether they ought to grant or reject the environmental clearance.

Although, there has not been an official announcement, a news snippet from 7NEWS indicated that NEAC held a meeting on Holy Thursday and granted approval for the proposed $900 million project. According to the news clip there was unanimous consent for the Cargo Port and all members voted to approve the Cruise Port, except the NGO representative, who opposed it.

Undeniably, maritime access is a vital component to Belize's economic future as data reveal that 90% of the country's imports arrive by sea. Presently, the Port of Belize cannot accommodate larger ships, hence limiting the quantity of containers arriving by sea, resulting in a higher cost per container. As submitted by PBL upon completion of the Expansion & Modernization Project, PBL will be able to receive Feedermax ships thereby increasing the amount of containers that arrive per ship to Belize. When coupled with modernized quayside infrastructure and equipment and retrained personnel the movement of cargo through the Port of Belize will improve substantially. Logistics capacity will be improved and the cost of goods moving through the Port will be reduced.

Additionally, the project will allow for the mega cruise liners with Icon-class capability to dock with welcome centre facilities for these ships, eliminating the tendering process, maximizing tours and shopping in Belize. The projection of 2 to 2.5 million passengers per year at full build-out. Minister of Tourism, Anthony Mahler lamented that Belize is 25 years behind in the realization of a cruise port. And cruise ships have been diverting to alternative touristic destinations moving potential revenues away from Belize.

Notwithstanding the NEAC's approval, there are several processes that must be undertaken prior to the official start of the project. Another important step is that the developers must sign an Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) with the DOE. The plan outlines the binding conditions to mitigate environmental damages. According to 7NEWS, the conditions are dredging, public reporting and mangrove management.

An environmental monitoring team will be mandated to ensure compliance with the ECP during the construction of the project. Also, the Belize Port Authority (BPA) through the respective minister will designate it as an official port of entry, with port license being issued outlining the operating conditions.

NEAC's approval of the Port of Belize Expansion & Modernization Project is an important step to what the Prime Minister, John Briceño considers will be a milestone achievement for the Jewel. Aside from the economic benefits this project will bring a myriad of social benefits to the long depressed community of Port Loyola. It will surely improve the lives of Belizeans from near and far. It is definitely a forward looking investment with long-term potential. A component of the 2026/2027 Budget for Belizean Prosperity.

By Hilly Bennett

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

ISSUES DECISION ON THE PORT OF THE BELIZE LIMITED'S CARGO EXPANSION AND CRUISE PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Belmopan, Belize. April 9, 2026.

The National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) met on April 2, 2026, to review the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report submitted by the Port of Belize Ltd. for the Cargo Expansion and Cruise Port Development project, located in the Port Loyola Area, Belize District. After carefully reviewing the information presented in the EIA report and the public's concerns, the NEAC recommended that environmental clearance be granted with strict conditions to reduce the potential negative environmental and some social impacts of the project. These include, but are not limited to:

i. The potential negative impact caused by dredging the access channel and the turning basin. This includes the need to properly contain all suspended materials during the dredging process, the installation of an adequate dewatering system, and the proper use of the different classifications of materials.

ii. The potential negative impacts caused by the construction and operation phases on water, land, and air.

iii. That the mangrove island, as a dredge disposal option, be constructed in a sound engineering and safe manner, and that long-term monitoring be put in place for mangrove and littoral forest growth.

iv. That the project proponent be bound to socially beneficial conditions to elevate the well-being of the nearby community. Including issues with traffic management, flood avoidance, job creation, entrepreneurship, a grievance mechanism, etc.

The DOE has accepted the recommendations of the NEAC for this project and has informed the developers of its decision. An Environmental Compliance Plan will be prepared and signed with the Developer to mitigate all potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the development.

The DOE also informs that:

i. The NEAC is of the opinion that the 2026 EIA report varied significantly from those submitted in the past.

ii. The project was recommended for approval by a majority of the NEAC.

iii. A comprehensive, frequent, and cross-agency compliance monitoring should be done by the Joint Environmental Enforcement Taskforce to address all matters, especially during the construction phase. (DoE release)

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EDITORIAL

Belizeans, Happier Than Many

At a Media Breakfast Mixer in 2021, Prime Minister John Briceño asked the media why they often focus on crime and bad news. The media didn't really answer his question, and news stories often miss the sense of community and progress happening in Belize. Some media outlets connected to the UDP add their own perspective to the news. These days, many people see the so-called "independent" media as more entertaining than trustworthy, and they may not notice efforts to discredit the planBelize government. Still, many Belizeans work hard and make the most of their free time. Not everyone feels the same level of happiness, since everyone's situation is unique, but most Belizeans are enjoying life. Some face challenges, but there's little interest in negativity about Belize's future. Belizeans participate in elections and judge their government's work. On March 3, 2025, they voted with a sense of progress and satisfaction. The opposition UDP lacks a clear plan, candidates, or leadership. According to the World Happiness Index, Belizeans are happy.

Since 2012, the World Happiness Report has been a key source for information on global well-being and how to improve it. Researchers gather data from over 140 countries to create detailed reports. Belize was ranked 52nd in 2015 and moved up to 25th in 2024. Happiness is personal and often debated, and statistics usually balance out across different backgrounds. One important finding is that young people are much less happy now than they were 15 years ago. Why is this happening? A study of 15-year-olds in 47 countries found that those who spend more than 7 hours a day on social media have much lower well-being than those who use it for less than an hour. Surprisingly, most US college students in a sample said they wish social media didn't exist. They use it because everyone else does, but would prefer if no one did. Belize, with a score of 6.711, does not seem to be affected by this trend, but it is worth mentioning. More data from Latin America show that platforms with algorithmic feeds and influencers are more likely to lower life satisfaction than those focused on communication. For example, Facebook and Snapchat are more concerning than YouTube and WhatsApp. The Index also notes that social media is not the only factor driving the decline in youth well-being in some places. Many factors are involved, and they differ by region. For example, in December 2025, Australia raised the age limit for ten social media platforms from 13 to 16. Overall, young people are more worried, but anger has gone down for both young and old. Positive emotions are still twice as common as negative ones, and younger people report more positivity than older generations.

When we look at Belize, we should ask if our youth are experiencing similar changes in happiness and well-being. There isn't much national data on the mental health of Belizean adolescents, but some teachers and youth workers have noticed more concerns about screen time, online pressure, and social comparison, much like global trends. However, Belizean culture, strong family ties, community connections, and outdoor activities may help protect against some of these negative effects. Many young people in Belize still join in sports, cultural events, and community activities. Still, it's important to pay attention to how increased internet use and social media might be affecting our youth. More local research and open conversations with young people will help us understand what makes the next generation of Belizeans happy.

Overall, people around the world are happy, but trends in social media use are concerning. Online activities fall into two groups: communication, news, learning, and creating content, which are linked to higher life satisfaction, and social media, gaming, and browsing for fun, which are linked to lower life satisfaction. Is social media safe for children and teens? The report calls this the "product safety question" and found seven pieces of evidence that the answer is "No." Heavy social media use can affect depression and stress in ways similar to unemployment, low income, and low education. Social media does not always harm or improve well-being; it depends on how much and how it is used, as well as the social environment. Many people blame social media for the drop in happiness, but does this idea hold up to careful research? In some places, young people's happiness has not dropped compared to adults, even though social media is just as common. The debate continues, and human behaviour is complex.

The full 200-page report can be read with Belize in mind. Which parts matter most to us? The Country Page also brings up many questions. In our region, only Costa Rica, Mexico, Canada, and the United States rank higher than Belize's twenty-seventh place. There is still plenty of room to improve.

To keep moving forward and improve national well-being, the government has started several new strategies. Investments in healthcare and the National Health Insurance program are making quality medical services more available. New housing, land programs, and community centres are being built to give people more stability and opportunities. Education is improving with scholarships, digital tools, and free secondary schooling to help young Belizeans and close achievement gaps. The government is also working to reduce crime with better policing and community involvement, and to create more jobs by investing in infrastructure and supporting small businesses. These efforts, shaped by public input, show a real commitment to building a happier and more successful society for everyone in Belize.

The People's United Party and John Briceño often repeat their motto: we "Serve the People." PM Briceño might say, "We will work until we are number 1. The work continues until poverty and crime are wiped out."

If this past Easter is any sign, Belize's economy is doing well. The country values peace and proudly shows it, even through religious traditions. Social media can be helpful, but it can also spread negativity. It's easy for a few people to complain online, while many more go to the polls and vote for leaders who provide stability and safety. The PUP keeps moving forward, overcoming negativity. People are happy with progress, but the PUP also knows that Belizeans expect even more improvements.

Looking ahead, clear milestones indicate that more progress is on the way. Construction of the new Port of Belize will start in August 2024 and is expected to finish by late 2026. Over the next 18 months, five new bridges are planned, starting with the Cayo bypass bridge in December 2024 and the Belize River Valley crossing by March 2025. The floating boardwalk in Belize City is set to open by July 2025, adding another attraction for residents and visitors. New regional hospitals in Dangriga and Orange Walk are expected to open by mid-2026, giving thousands better access to healthcare. More homes, land distribution, and the final phase of National Health Insurance expansion will move forward in 2024 and 2025. Education upgrades, like free secondary programs and new digital resources, are being introduced for the 2024-2026 academic years. These projects show a promising path to greater happiness for Belizeans, proving that the government is not just making plans but also following through. And the work continues…

en Español

Los Beliceños, Más Felices Que Muchos

En un desayuno de trabajo con los medios de comunicación celebrado en 2021, el primer ministro John Briceño preguntó a los periodistas por qué solían centrarse en la delincuencia y las malas noticias. Los medios no respondieron realmente a su pregunta, y las noticias a menudo pasan por alto el sentido de comunidad y el progreso que se está produciendo en Belice. Algunos medios vinculados al UDP aportan su propia perspectiva a las noticias. Hoy en día, mucha gente considera que los llamados medios «independientes» son más entretenidos que fiables, y es posible que no se den cuenta de los esfuerzos para desacreditar al gobierno de planBelize. Aun así, muchos beliceños trabajan duro y aprovechan al máximo su tiempo libre. No todo el mundo siente el mismo nivel de felicidad, ya que la situación de cada uno es única, pero la mayoría de los beliceños disfrutan de la vida. Algunos se enfrentan a retos, pero hay poco interés por la negatividad sobre el futuro de Belice. Los beliceños participan en las elecciones y juzgan la labor de su gobierno. El 3 de marzo de 2025 votaron con una sensación de progreso y satisfacción. La oposición, el UDP, carece de un plan claro, de candidatos o de liderazgo. Según el Índice Mundial de la Felicidad, los beliceños son felices.

Desde 2012, el Informe Mundial sobre la Felicidad ha sido una fuente clave de información sobre el bienestar global y sobre cómo mejorarlo. Los investigadores recopilan datos de más de 140 países para elaborar informes detallados. Belice ocupó el puesto 52 en 2015 y ascendió al 25 en 2024. La felicidad es algo personal y a menudo objeto de debate, y las estadísticas suelen equilibrarse entre diferentes contextos. Un hallazgo importante es que los jóvenes son mucho menos felices ahora que hace 15 años. ¿Por qué ocurre esto? Un estudio realizado con jóvenes de 15 años en 47 países reveló que quienes pasan más de 7 horas al día en las redes sociales tienen un bienestar mucho menor que quienes las utilizan menos de una hora al día. Sorprendentemente, la mayoría de los estudiantes universitarios estadounidenses de una muestra afirmaron que desearían que las redes sociales no existieran. Las utilizan porque todo el mundo lo hace, pero preferirían que nadie lo hiciera. Belice, con una puntuación de 6,711, no parece verse afectado por esta tendencia, pero merece la pena mencionarlo. Más datos de América Latina muestran que las plataformas con feeds algorítmicos y con influencers tienden a reducir la satisfacción con la vida más que las centradas en la comunicación. Por ejemplo, Facebook y Snapchat son más preocupantes que YouTube y WhatsApp. El Índice también señala que las redes sociales no son el único factor que impulsa el deterioro del bienestar de los jóvenes en algunos lugares. Hay muchos factores implicados, y varían según la región. Por ejemplo, en diciembre de 2025, Australia elevó la edad mínima para acceder a diez plataformas de redes sociales de 13 a 16 años. En general, los jóvenes están más preocupados, pero la ira ha disminuido tanto entre los jóvenes como entre los mayores. Las emociones positivas siguen siendo dos veces más frecuentes que las negativas, y los jóvenes muestran una mayor positividad que las generaciones mayores.

Al analizar Belice, debemos preguntarnos si nuestros jóvenes están experimentando cambios similares en cuanto a la felicidad y bienestar. No hay muchos datos nacionales sobre la salud mental de los adolescentes beliceños, pero algunos docentes y trabajadores juveniles han notado una mayor preocupación por el tiempo frente a la pantalla, la presión en línea y la comparación social, al igual que en las tendencias globales. Sin embargo, la cultura beliceña, los fuertes lazos familiares, las conexiones con la comunidad y las actividades al aire libre pueden ayudar a proteger frente a algunos de estos efectos negativos. Muchos jóvenes en Belice siguen participando en deportes, eventos culturales y actividades comunitarias. Aun así, es importante prestar atención a cómo el aumento del uso de Internet y de las redes sociales podrían estar afectando a nuestra juventud. Más investigación local y conversaciones abiertas con los jóvenes nos ayudarán a comprender qué hace feliz a la próxima generación de beliceños.

En general, la gente de todo el mundo es feliz, pero las tendencias en el uso de las redes sociales son preocupantes. Las actividades en línea se dividen en dos grupos: las relacionadas con una mayor satisfacción con la vida, como la comunicación, las noticias, el aprendizaje y la creación de contenido; y las relacionadas con una menor satisfacción con la vida, como las redes sociales, los videojuegos y la navegación por diversión. ¿Son seguras las redes sociales para los niños y adolescentes? El informe denomina a esto la «cuestión de la seguridad del producto» y encontró siete pruebas de que la respuesta es «No». El uso intensivo de las redes sociales puede afectar la depresión y el estrés de manera similar al desempleo, a los bajos ingresos y al bajo nivel educativo. Las redes sociales no siempre perjudican ni mejoran el bienestar; depende de cuánto y cómo se utilicen, así como del entorno social. Muchas personas culpan a las redes sociales de la disminución de la felicidad, pero ¿se sostiene esta idea ante una investigación rigurosa? En algunos lugares, la felicidad de los jóvenes no ha disminuido en comparación con la de los adultos, a pesar de que el uso de las redes sociales es igual de común entre ambos grupos. El debate continúa, y el comportamiento humano es complejo.

El informe completo de 200 páginas puede leerse teniendo en cuenta Belice. ¿Qué partes son más importantes para nosotros? La página del país también plantea muchas preguntas. En nuestra región, solo Costa Rica, México, Canadá y Estados Unidos ocupan puestos más altos que el vigésimo séptimo lugar de Belice. Todavía hay mucho margen de mejora.

Para seguir avanzando y mejorar el bienestar nacional, el Gobierno ha puesto en marcha varias nuevas estrategias. Las inversiones en la asistencia sanitaria y en el programa del Seguro Nacional de Salud están mejorando el acceso a servicios médicos de calidad. Se están construyendo nuevas viviendas, se están desarrollando programas de acceso a la tierra y se están creando centros comunitarios para ofrecer a la población mayor estabilidad y más oportunidades. La educación está mejorando gracias a becas, herramientas digitales y enseñanza secundaria gratuita para ayudar a los jóvenes beliceños y reducir las brechas en el rendimiento académico. El Gobierno también está trabajando para reducir la delincuencia mediante una mejor actuación policial y la participación de la comunidad, y para crear más puestos de trabajo, invirtiendo en infraestructura y apoyando a las pequeñas empresas. Estos esfuerzos, moldeados por las aportaciones de la ciudadanía, demuestran un compromiso real con la construcción de una sociedad más feliz y próspera para todos en Belice.

El PartidoUnido del Pueblo y John Briceño repiten a menudo su lema: «Servimos al pueblo». El primer ministro Briceño podría decir: «Trabajaremos hasta ser los números uno. El trabajo continuará hasta que la pobreza y la delincuencia sean erradicadas».

Si la Semana Santa pasada es un indicio, la economía de Belice va bien. El país valora la paz y la muestra con orgullo, incluso a través de sus tradiciones religiosas. Las redes sociales pueden ser útiles, pero también pueden difundir negatividad. Es fácil que unas pocas personas se quejen en Internet, mientras que muchas más acuden a las urnas y votan por líderes que proporcionan estabilidad y seguridad. El PUP sigue avanzando, superando la negatividad. La gente está contenta con el progreso, pero el PUP también sabe que los beliceños esperan mejoras aún mayores.

De cara al futuro, hay hitos claros que indican que se avecinan más avances. La construcción del nuevo puerto de Belice comenzará en agosto de 2024 y se espera que finalice a finales de 2026. Durante los próximos 18 meses, están previstos cinco nuevos puentes, empezando por el puente de circunvalación de Cayo en diciembre de 2024 y el cruce del valle del río Belice en marzo de 2025. El paseo marítimo flotante de la ciudad de Belice está previsto que se inaugure en julio de 2025, lo que supondrá un nuevo atractivo para residentes y visitantes. Se espera que los nuevos hospitales regionales de Dangriga y Orange Walk abran sus puertas a mediados de 2026, lo que proporcionará a miles de personas un mejor acceso a la atención sanitaria. En 2024 y 2025 se avanzará en la construcción de más viviendas, en la distribución de tierras y en la fase final de la ampliación del Seguro Nacional de Salud. Se están introduciendo mejoras en la educación, como programas de secundaria gratuitos y nuevos recursos digitales, para los cursos académicos 2024-2026. Estos proyectos muestran un camino prometedor hacia una mayor felicidad para los beliceños, demostrando que el Gobierno no solo está elaborando planes, sino que también los está ejecutando. Y el trabajo continúa…

Benque Viejo Town Council Works Roadworks & More Rolling

The Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town Council took up their reelection in 2024 very seriously. Recently over the Easter 2026, they successfully completed important upgrades at their New Market Stalls. The roofing extension was carried out to provide essential shelter for businesses and customers visiting the market. This improvement will allow vendors to set up chairs and picnic tables comfortably without placing tents in front of the market, significantly enhancing the overall appearance and cleanliness of the space.

Road Works

The roadworks on Diaz Street are progressing well, with an additional 100ft of concreting soon to be completed in front of Mount Carmel Primary School. This section had been deteriorating for years and was full of potholes. The street will be fully opened before students return to classes after the Easter break. The Benque Viejo Town Council is grateful for the continued support of our residents through their property tax contributions. These works are only an example of the extensive upgrades, paving, cementing and creating of new roads.

Benque is also about culture. This Easter their display of their very own Passion of Jesus Christ touched all those that witnessed it in person or online. There is no party politics in Religion so ignoring this major event in the country does not do us favours with our followers who follow God first. This display has the National Institute of Culture and Heritage locked in as they can see both the culture of the Benqueño Belizean as a veritable part of our grand heritage.

Still on culture and awareness, Mayor Rosales also participated in the book launch of our very own Mr. David Ruiz titled "The Lockdown a Countdown - En la tercera Ola del Covid y unos cuentos más," which was held at the National Heritage Library in Belmopan City. The Benque Viejo Town Council and Belize congratulates Mr. David Ruiz in this new achievement.

De Lockdown a Countdown
en la Tercera Ola del COVID y unos cuentos más
David N. Ruiz Puga
Ti-Puj PUBLISHERS
BENQUE
VIEJO TOWN COUNCIL

Supporting Culture

During the Easter Holidays, the Mayor and council gave out a helping hand to some students with a rare Easter jobs. Just the notion that this was done shows the openness of this council to go all out for progress.

Easter Jobs Program

As we move to the next municipal election, the electorate should visit https://www.facebook.com/benqueviejotown-council/photos and click on any picture and you will see a body of work. Have in mind that this in only what could be posted. The actual work is actually much, much more. The Benque Viejo del Carmen Town Council is a great example of our PUP Town Councils as they work hand in hand with the PUP government to bring progress to the nation.

Park Bleachers

Market Stalls

Ministry Support

Even the UDP representative knows that the PUP is for progress and the betterment of the nation. Los Benqueños sabran que el PUP es el partido del progreso en Belice.

Cayo West Executive Swears-in

On Wednesday, April 8, the New Executive for Cayo West Division were officially sworn in by Secretary General Collet Montejo.

Witnessing the Swearing in were Mr. Rafael Guerra and Mr. Raymond Cox of the Order of Distinguished Service. In attendance was Hon. Oscar Mira, Chairman of the Western Caucus and Mr. Moises Cal, Deputy National Campaign Manager for the West along with Mayor Jorge Rosales of the Benque Viejo Town Council.

The new Chairperson for Cayo West is Ms. Katie Jones who will be working with a renewed commitment to strengthening the Party in that constituency assisted by 22 other individuals.

BELIZE, A CHRISTIAN NATION
REVEALED BY EASTER CELEBRATIONS
Celebrating included Attendees, Artists, Government, Sponsors and ALL

The Preamble to the constitution of Belize states and I quote, "Whereas the people of Belize- (a) Affirm that the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles which acknowledge t*he supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions, the dignity of the human person and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed by their Creator;*"

Belize is fundamentally founded on Christian principles, in essence Belize is a Christian Nation. This past Easter celebration reaffirmed this underlying principle. Pentecostal Church of God held their annual Youth event from Good Friday to Easter Sunday in San Ignacio at the Victor Galvez Stadium. This event had the attendance of over seven hundred (700) youths from across the country. It was a Spirit filled revival which saw youth recommitting their lives to God and His service.

The Dangriga and Red Bank Christafari concert which were MCed by Pastor Louis Wade on Holy Thursday and Good Friday respectively, had in attendance over four hundred (400) persons in Dangriga and over eight hundred (800) in Red Bank.

Orange Walk and Corozal Towns also had Christafari in concert with hundreds attending both events held on Sunday and Monday of Holy Week.

Belize City Council hosted various local and international Gospel Artist for a two-day Reflect, Revive, and Renew event. This two-day revival concert saw Chrisfari highlighted on Tuesday of Holy Week and Sinach highlighted on Wednesday. Local bands included gospel bands from Centro Vision Misionero, Dunamis Worship, Life Music from Life Church, Alexander Evans, Heavenlies Gospel Band, Wabagari Dance Group, and King's Park Church of the Nazarene Gospel Band.

Sponsors for The Belize City Council two-night revival included Office of the Prime Minister, the Belize Tourism Board, National Institute of Culture and History, Radisson Fort George Hotel, Golden Bay Hotel, Benny's, Atlantic Bank Limited, Belize Bank Limited, Insurance Corporation of Belize Limited, Belize Water Services Limited, RC Construction Limited, Monarch Construction, Digi Belize, and Belize Waste Control. **The input from the sponsors speaks volumes to their commitment to Christian values and the upliftment of God in Belize**. Two nights of powerful worship and praise that saw thousands in attendance.

In Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town, the students from John Paul 11 Sixth form joined Catholic faithful in their annual reenactment of the crucifixion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This event held on Good Friday saw the annual sawdust tapestry and re-enactment of the Passion of Christ. Across the country, Stations of the Cross were placed at various locations as the faithful gathered and processioned through the various municipalities.

I quote directly from a Facebook article written by Hon. Senator Pastor Louis Wade"

"***Thank you Minister Hon Oscar Mira and Mayor Cawich for the beautiful display of the Cross and Empty tomb at Sir George Brown Field. In this Easter Resurrection Sunday, we, from different denominations, gathered there and worshipped at dawn. It was detailed and very creative; even the tomb remained closed until this morning when they opened it. Nice!***

Thank you Minister Dr Hon Louis Zabaneh, for your primary Sponsorship of the Christafari Concert in Dangriga, without your input we would not be able to host a wonderful Easter Worship Concert in the Culture capital. We had a great turnout from nearby communities as well.

I also congratulate the Mayors and Town councils of Orange Walk and Corozal for Hosting and Sponsoring Christafari for Worship Concerts in your municipalities. It was also the Chairman of San Antonio Village in Cayo and past village council chairman Kenroy Cal of Red Bank, that organized the Worship Concerts in their respective villages.

Thank you Mayor Bernard for 2 nights of Revival in Belize City!! You played a vital leadership role, not just in implementing a spiritual emphasis during Easter, but for recognizing the spiritual needs of your City, and addressing it through unashamed Worship of the one true God. The citywide revivals with Sinach and some of Belize's best worship teams have truly inspired citizens and leaders alike to be bold in their faith. Thanks for also bringing on board the needed sponsors, including the office of the PM, NICH and the BTB, to ensure a world class event. Happy Easter 2026"

It is God's word that declares in Psalms 33:12, "***Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord***." Belize is proving over and over that our Christian values are an intricate part of our society. Our church / state schools, our constitution, our National Prayer are only examples of how seriously we take our Christianity. God is uplifted and Belize…the end result, our nation, our people, our society, our families are blessed. "*Our children will be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of our children.*"

We look forward to more Easters where our risen Christ is exalted and the name of God is held on high. 2026 was indeed a Blessed Easter.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

WORLD BANK GROUP

SOCIAL SPECIALIST

Institution: Ministry of Finance

Country: Belize

Project: Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project

Process ID: BZ-MFEDI-521161-CS-INDV

Duration: Two (2) years

Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan, Belize (In Office)

Deadline: **May 8, 2026; 9:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the World Bank for the **"**Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project", being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Social Specialist" under the Central Executing Unit, Ministry of Finance, Belmopan.**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest and Terms of Reference (TOR) at https://procurement.gov.bz/mof-social-specialist-individual-consultant-bz-mfedi-521161-cs-indv-mof-2026/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:

Procurement Specialist

Ministry of Finance

2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan

Tel: 501-822-4106'

procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Social Specialist" – Belize Reliant and Resilient Energy System Project– [Applicant's Name].

BHSFU — BLUE BOND — Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future

Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit
Office of the Prime Minister
Belize City, Belize

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Individual Consultancy for a Case Study on the Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for Belize's High Seas Fishing Vessels

The Blue Bond and Finance Permanence (BBFP) Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, invites qualified individual consultants to submit proposals for a consultancy for a Case Study on the Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for Belize's High Seas Fishing Vessels.

The objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive case study on the implementation of the EMP onboard Belize's high seas fishing vessels.

SPECIFIC TASKS INCLUDE:

- Conduct literature review of relevant policies, frameworks, and EMS implementation in Belize and globally.
- Engage stakeholders through interviews to gather insights on EMS implementation, operation, challenges, and compliance.
- Collect and analyze data to assess EMS effectiveness, identify challenges, and evaluate impacts on compliance and fisheries management.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of Belize's EMS implementation against international initiatives, highlighting best practices and lessons learned.
- Develop and present a comprehensive EMS case study highlighting background, findings, challenges, and recommendations.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE OF CONSULTANT:

- Postgraduate degree in fisheries, marine conservation, environmental science, policy analysis, or related field.
- At least 5 years' demonstrated experience in fisheries governance, compliance monitoring, marine conservation, or related field.
- Proven experience conducting at least two similar assignments (e.g., case studies, policy analyses, impact assessments).
- Demonstrated experience working with government, fisheries, or international organizations.
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills, with at least one relevant report or publication.

Duration: Three (3) months
Submission Deadline: April 17, 2026, by 10:00 am (BZ Time)

Full Terms of Reference is available at: www.bhsfu.gov.bz/opportunities
Only proposals submitted in accordance with the official ToR will be considered.
Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CONSULTATIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION ZONES EXPANSION IN BELIZE

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation (MBEMC) will be hosting a series of consultations in coastal communities throughout April.

These sessions will provide an opportunity for commercial, subsistence and sports fishers to review and share feedback on proposed marine protection areas within Belize's ocean space. We encourage all fishers to participate and have your voice heard.

See below for dates, times, and locations of consultations. For questions, email **bsop@coastalzonebelize.org** or Whatsapp **614-9825**.

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE – APRIL

April 17
Chunox Fishermen Association Office - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Sarteneja Inn, Sarteneja - 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

April 18
St. Francis Xavier R.C. School Auditorium, Corozal Town - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

April 20
Northern Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd. Conference Room, Belize City - 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

April 21
Pelican Beach Resort Conference Room, Dangriga Town - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Placencia Public Basketball Court, Placencia - 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

April 22
Riversdale Park, Riversdale - 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Punta Gorda Town - 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM

April 23
Island Magic Conference Center, Caye Caulker - 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

April 24
SunBreeze Hotel, San Pedro Town - 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

IDB

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

PROJECT MANAGER

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program
Process ID: BL-L1042-P00049
Duration: Twenty-four (24) Months
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **April 30th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank for the execution of the "Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

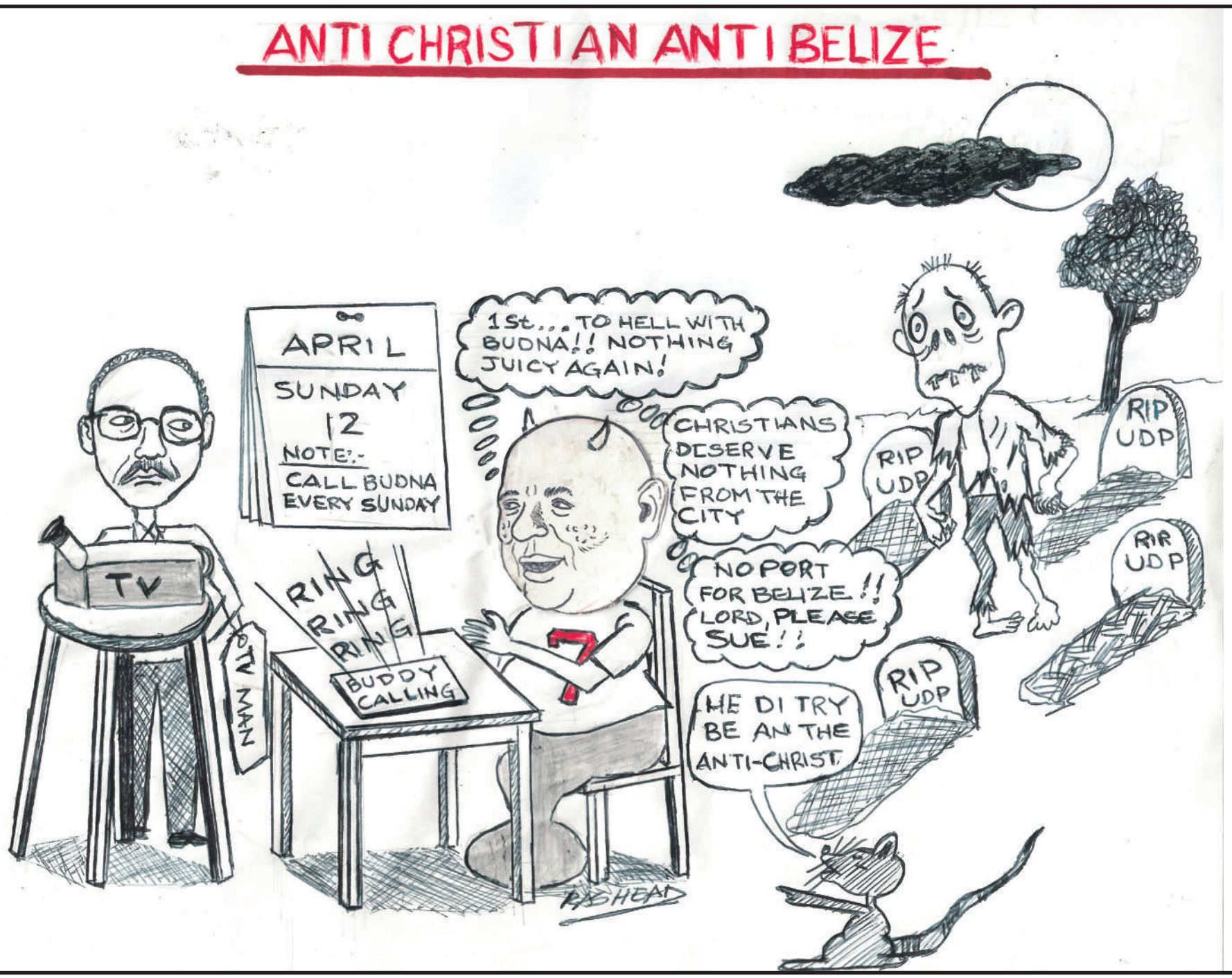
The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Project Manager".**

The Ministry of Finance invites individuals to access the full version of this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) and Terms of Reference (TOR) at http://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities / or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit application packages in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN:
Sr. Procurement Specialist
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: Individual Consultancy – "Project Manager" – Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Blue Economy Program– [Name of consultant].

CARTOON



MEETING WITH NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADORS TO BELIZE

Governor-General H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam received Letters of Credence

March 30 - H.E. Amino C. Y. Chi, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and H.E. Ana Luisa Vallejo Barba, Ambassador of the United Mexican States, presented their credentials at the Belize House in Belmopan.

The ambassadors each expressed their hopes of forging stronger bonds with Belize during their tenure. The Governor-General extended a warm welcome to the diplomats and conveyed well-wishes on behalf of the people of Belize.

Prime Minister John Briceño - Mexican Ambassador

March 30 - "We're are welcoming the new Ambassador for Mexico to Belize. H. E. Ana Luisa Vallejo Barba commences her tour of duty. We look forward to collaborate on issues from economic to security, culture to commerce. Welcome to Belize"

Prime Minister John Briceño - Taiwanese Ambassador

March 30 - "I met in a courtesy visit with new Ambassador to Belize from the Republic of China – Taiwan H. E. Amino C. Y. Chi who will take lead of the mission in Belize, continuing a long and mutually beneficial diplomatic relationship between our two nations."

Foreign Minister Francis Fonseca - Mexican Ambassador

March 30 - H.E. Ana Luisa Vallejo Barba, new Ambassador of the United Mexican States met with the Foreign Minister for the presentation of copies of her credentials.

In welcoming the Ambassador, Minister Fonseca underscored the brotherly ties between Belize and Mexico, rooted in our shared history, geographic proximity, and mutual respect, and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure.

Ambassador Vallejo Barba expressed appreciation for the warm reception and affirmed her commitment to deepening cooperation.

Discussions highlighted opportunities to expand trade and strengthen interconnectivity, as both countries advance sustainable development and social progress for the benefit of their peoples. (post)

Foreign Minister Francis Fonseca - Taiwanese Ambassador

March 30 - H.E. Amino C.Y. Chi, new Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) met with the Foreign Minister for the presentation of copies of his letters of credence.

The Foreign Minister, for his part, welcomed the Ambassador as the new representative of his country and wished him well in his tenure. The Ambassador thanked the Foreign Minister for his warm welcome and spoke of his readiness to contribute to strengthening ties between Belize and the R.O.C.

Their cordial discussions focused on the bilateral agenda and reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral ties grounded in principles and cooperation in areas of mutual benefit.(post)

Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management - Taiwanese Ambassador

April 7, 2026 - Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, and Mr. Rolando Zetina, Chief Executive Officer, met today with H.E. Amino C.Y. Chi, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize.

The meeting was held in the spirit of the deep and enduring friendship shared between Belize and the Republic of China (Taiwan), a partnership grounded in mutual respect, cooperation, and a shared vision for sustainable development.

During discussions, both parties explored opportunities for enhanced collaboration in key areas of mutual interest. Emphasis was placed on initiatives to modernize and strengthen Belize's public service through technical cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of advancing disaster risk management preparedness. Both sides discussed potential avenues of support, including the possibility of securing drone technology to enhance the operational capabilities of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), particularly in areas such as damage assessment, monitoring, and emergency response.

Ambassador Chi officially presented his credentials to Governor-General H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam on March 30, 2026. A seasoned diplomat, Ambassador Chi brings a wealth of experience to his role, having previously served two postings in Belize. He succeeds H.E. Lily Li-wen Hsu, the former Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize, and has expressed a strong commitment to further strengthening the longstanding and cordial relations between Belize and Taiwan.

The Government of Belize values its strong and enduring partnership with Taiwan and looks forward to continued collaboration that contributes to national development and resilience-building efforts. (release)

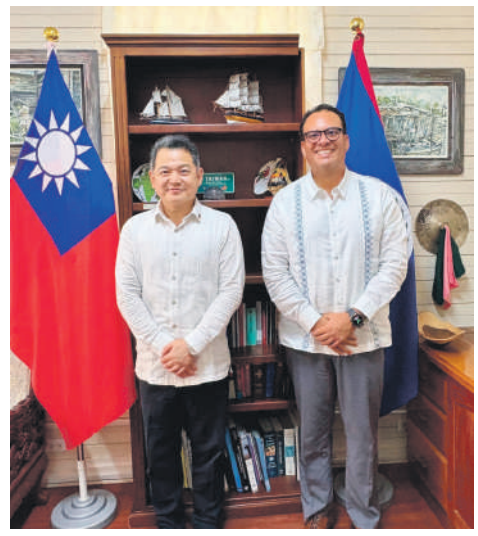
Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in Economic Transformation - Taiwanese Ambassador

April 8, 2026 - Dr. Hon. Osmond Martinez, accompanied by Mr. Carlos Pol, Chief Executive Officer, met with His Excellency Amino C.Y. Chi, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Belize, in a courtesy meeting aimed at reaffirming and strengthening the longstanding bilateral relationship between both countrieås.

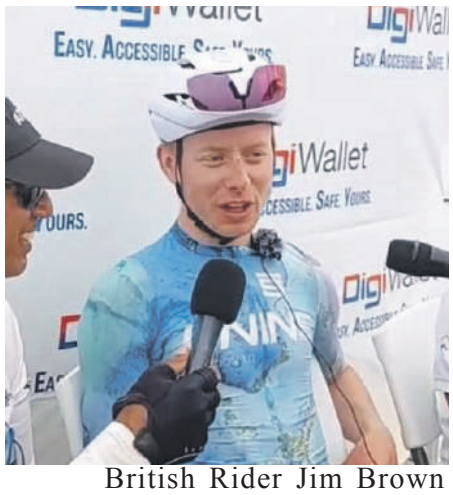
Discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in key priority areas, including ongoing and potential development projects, as well as opportunities to further enhance economic cooperation. Both parties underscored the importance of continued engagement and the exchange of mutual support to advance Belize's national development agenda.

Particular emphasis was placed on the role of strategic partners such as the International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) and the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (EximBank), whose contributions have been instrumental in supporting Belize's development initiatives. Opportunities to expand cooperation through these mechanisms were explored, including financing, technical assistance, and capacity-building support for priority sectors.

Dr. Hon. Martinez highlighted the importance of leveraging these partnerships to advance climate resilience, economic transformation, and sustainable growth, while Ambassador Chi reaffirmed Taiwan's commitment to supporting Belize's development priorities. (release)



96th Edition of the Annual
Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic
Jim Brown Leads Eleven Record Breaking Riders



British Rider Jim Brown is again the champion in back-to-back fashion in a record-breaking 96th Annual Holy Saturday Cross Country Cycling Classic. This took place on the George Price Highway in Belize took place on April 4, 2026 marking a historic moment in the nation's most prestigious cycling event and the biggest sporting event in Belize's calendar year. Many mark it right along with biggest of yearly events. The annual debate is on, is it ok for a foreigner to win? This is followed by the question, which Belizean can keep the glory of the garland here for Belize? The Holy Saturday Cycling Classic had always upended respectfully the quiet streets on Good Friday.

The race is, by virtue of its running, historic. The scenery was sunny and rainy with a magnificent rainbow adorning the pedaling. No one will forget Heriberto Quiroz Gutierrez of Tenis Stars who finished 14th and Sebastian Casalvolone Calderon of 7C Economy Hyundai who finished 31st. Why? In a most convincing of arguments, Quiroz and Calderon's cycling assault in the middle of the race towards Cayo left the main peloton behind by more than four minutes. The anxiety was palpable even under the showers. Will this pair be caught? It is now documented that after turning at Cayo Quiroz dropped back. The peloton reigned in the now solo Calderon and then the race group sped into Belize City. The road, the wind, the temperature, the group, the first escape pair and, most importantly, the thousands of fans who lined the highways and streets all complemented each other to bring eleven of the riders under the then record of 5hrs 39 minutes 26 seconds in 2024 held by Guatemalan Luis Lopez.

The new record is now 2026 CHAMPION Jim Brown's Five Hours, 31 Minutes and 31 Seconds. Ignacio Prado(Canel's Java) was beat in a sprint beside Brown settled for 2nd place. Belizeans Jyven Gonzalez(L39ion of Los Angeles Cycling) 3rd place and Derrick Chavarria(China Chermin) 4th place; Jaylen Briceño(L39ion of Los Angeles Cycling) 10th place. The record was broken by 11 riders. Fifth place went to Uriel Omar Espinosa López(Tenis Stars), 6th was Angel Javier Esquivel Del Rio(Tenis Stars), 7th was Luis Daniel Campos Oseso(7C Economy Hyundai), 8th was Ferlandy Morales Garcia (Castelli Delux Red Hook), 9th was John Delong(Total Skyline), and 11th was David Santiago Abreo Castaño (Franco Agromx Cycling Team.

There are other races held in National Public and Bank Holidays but none like the Cross Country Classic. This is Belize's race just like the Ruta Maya that has gained in stature. No one person nor entity can change that level of glory. NO other race can compare, not even a Tour de France. This is major national tradition in Belize, celebrated along with Holy Saturday with energized fans lining and adorning the route with all colors of flags.

Thanks to all supporters for being out there. If we were to somehow just sleep the Holy Saturday morning, how will race organizers approach sponsors. This year the UCI sanctioned race was organized by the Cycling Federation of Belize, with support from many sponsors of prizes along the way, significant donations but led by main sponsors, Digicell and the Belize Tourism Board.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Champ Jim Brown and for all involved in making this a success—fans, sponsors, organizers and riders. March 27, 2027 is right around the corner.

CYCLING FEDERATION OF BELIZE
"The Brotherhood of the Ride"
UCI
2025
Saturday, 04 April 2026
CYCLING FEDERATION OF BELIZE
96th ANNUAL HOLY SATURDAY CROSS COUNTRY CLASSIC
Belize City - San Ignacio - Belize City

1	104	GBR	100 236 766 33			Jim Brown	Unattached		
2	120	MEX	100 090 237 11			Ignacio Prado	Canel's Java		
3	3	BIZ	100 843 079 35			Jyven Gonzalez	L39ion of Los Angeles Cycling Team	40	
4	11	BIZ	100 843 230 90			Derrick Chavarria	China Chermin Cycling Team	30	
5	68	COL	101 502 220 92			Uriel Omar Espinosa López	Tenis Stars		
6	70	MEX	100 907 603 55			Angel Javier Esquivel Del Rio	Tenis Stars		
7	65	CRC	101 144 946 39			Luis Daniel Campos Oseso	7C Economy Hyundai		
8	38	GUA	101 263 339 83			Ferlandy Morales Garcia	Castelli Delux Red Hook		
9	105	USA	100 033 651 73			John Delong	Total Skyline		
10	4	BIZ	101 318 063 11			Jaylen Briceno	L39ion of Los Angeles Cycling Team	8	

MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY SUPPORT AND GENDER AFFAIRS

Press Release

New Taiwanese Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call to Minister Garcia-Ramirez

Belmopan, Belize, 9th April 2026. The Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, Honourable Thea Garcia-Ramirez, on April 8, 2026, received a courtesy call from His Excellency Amino C.Y. Chi, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The meeting was warm and productive, reaffirming the strong and favourable relationship that has long existed between the Ministry and the Embassy of Taiwan. Discussions reflected on several past collaborations and the positive impact these initiatives have had in supporting vulnerable individuals and families across Belize.

Both parties also explored new and exciting areas for future cooperation. The conversation focused on strengthening ongoing collaboration and identifying opportunities for projects that advance social development, family support, and community well-being.

Minister Garcia-Ramirez expressed appreciation for the continued partnership and support from the Republic of China (Taiwan), noting the importance of collaboration in delivering meaningful programmes for Belizean communities.

Ambassador Chi also conveyed his enthusiasm for working closely with the Ministry and reaffirmed Taiwan's commitment to continued cooperation.

The Ministry looks forward to building on this strong relationship and advancing joint initiatives in the months ahead.

End.

JULES LOSES IT AGAIN!

By now everyone knows that the cynic who inherited Channel 7 from his father has 'beef' with everything this government does, although he takes no issue at all with the bonanza his family's station raked in under a past administration to the tune of millions upon millions of dollars in state sponsored advertising dollars.

Everyone else we have spoken to or heard from, with respect to the Belize City Council's initiative of promoting and supporting an annual spiritual Easter concert, has been positive and commendatory. The solitary voice of objection and condemnation is, you guessed it, the cynic from Channel 7.

"*I understand it is Easter. Great. You cannot justifiably use public funds to pay for a religious concert…You cannot use public funds for that,"* he ranted and raved. Although, he himself had to later concede*, "I'm sure I'm in the minority…I understand that these events have a positive effect on the community and those who attended*." Well, there you have it.

He is nevertheless entitled to his opinion, and to Freedom of Speech as guaranteed in the Belize Constitution. We would caution him to be careful, though, when it comes to castigating the Council, the Church and Christians for glorifying God, whose supremacy is acknowledged by the very same Belize Constitution in its preamble, the very first paragraph of that document which supersedes all other laws in our country.

"***Whereas the people of Belize-(a) affirm that the Nation of Belize shall be founded upon principles which acknowledge the supremacy of God, faith in human rights and fundamental freedoms, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions, the dignity of the human person and the equal and inalienable rights with which all members of the human family are endowed by their Creator***." (Preamble, Belize Constitution, Chapter 4, Laws of Belize)

As to his specific argument against using public funds to support a spiritual concert, we must remind him that the Government of Belize, under all administrations, spends hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to sponsor and support Belize's National September Celebrations, and fittingly so.

While some of those activities and the accompanying revelry are of a nature that the devout Christians among us do not delight in, the Government is for all Belizeans and must respect and support all citizens' rights to celebrate in a manner that pleases them, as long as it does not endanger peace or pose a threat to law and order and national security.

There is, for example, the Belize City Carnival which receives a significant contribution annually from the National Celebrations Commission (NCC), those funds going to the Belize Carnival Association. What if the churches were to protest the allocation of such funds to an activity which they would not consider to be edifying, from a Christian standpoint?

For added context, it is important to note that the vast majority of Belizeans consider themselves to be religious, mainly Christian. In fact, in the latest census, 2022, more than 60 percent of Belizeans still identified as Christian.

Note also that, as Belize City Mayor Bernard Wagner reported, almost half of the funds used to sponsor this year's Easter Concert came from donations by businesses, and he has been entirely transparent in reporting exactly what was spent by the City Council itself.

As we said, the vast majority of Belizeans believe it is money well spent, particularly at a time when our community, especially our young people, are desperately in need of a spiritual awakening, and that the timing of this specific initiative served fittingly to return the reason for the season (Easter), which is Christ.

The leadership demonstrated by Mayor Wagner and the Belize City Council in this regard has expanded to other jurisdictions countrywide. We share with you, in closing, the acknowledgments by Church Senator and Pastor, Honorable Louis Wade, posted Easter Sunday on his Facebook Page:

"*Thank you Minister Honorable Oscar Mira and Mayor Cawich for the beautiful display of the Cross and Empty tomb at Sir George Brown Field. In this Easter Resurrection Sunday we, from different Denominations, gathered there and worshipped at dawn. It was detailed and very creative; even the tomb remained closed until this morning when they opened it. Nice*!"

"*Thank you Minister Dr. Hon Louis Zabaneh, for your primary sponsorship of the Christafari Concert in Dangriga. Without your input we would not be able to host a wonderful Easter Worship Concert in the Culture capital. We had a great turnout from nearby communities as well.*"

"*I also congratulate the Mayors and Town councils of Orange Walk and Corozal for hosting and sponsoring Christafari for Worship Concerts in your municipalities. It was also the Chairman of San Antonio Village in Cayo and past village council chairman Kenroy Cal of Red Bank that organized the worship concerts in their respective villages*."

"*Thank you Mayor Bernard for two nights of Revival in Belize City! You played a vital leadership role, not just in implementing a spiritual emphasis during Easter, but for recognizing the spiritual needs of your city and addressing it through unashamed worship of the one true God*."

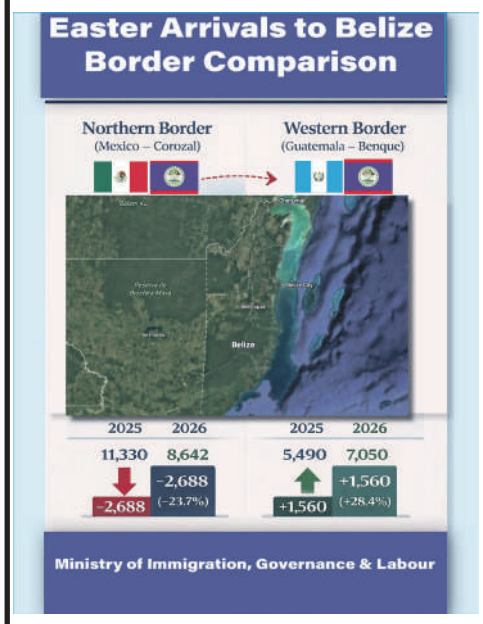
To all of this, we say, Amen!

Happiness Drives Belize's Tourism Growth

April 8, 2026 - Belize's global standing as one of the happiest nations in the world is finding new reflection in its growing tourism and travel patterns, particularly during the recent Easter holiday period.

According to the latest World Happiness Report, powered by the Gallup World Poll, Belize ranks 27th out of 147 countries worldwide. The ranking, based on data collected over three-years, measures how individuals look at their quality of life using a scale from zero to ten. Respondents are asked to imagine a ladder, with the top representing the best possible life and the bottom the worst, and to identify where they stand.

This strong global placement suggests a sense of satisfaction and optimism among Belizeans, reflecting factors such as community life, economic stability, and social support. It also positions the country favorably in the eyes of international observers and potential visitors.



New data released by the Ministry of Immigration

That positive perception is mirrored in new data released by the Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour, which shows an increase in arrivals over the Easter weekend in 2026. Total arrivals climbed to 24,520, representing a 5.5 percent rise compared to the same period last year.

Our most notable growth came via air travel. The Philip Goldson International Airport recorded a significant surge, with arrivals increasing by 37 percent. This spike points to a strengthening tourism sector and a growing preference for air travel among international visitors.

At the same time, shifting to our land borders. The western crossing at Benque Viejo del Carmen experienced a notable rise in traffic, while the northern border at Corozal District saw a decline. Overall, land crossings dipped slightly, suggesting a change in travel routes and preferences among regional travelers.

Tourist arrivals recorded one of the most significant increases, rising by nearly a quarter when compared to 2025. While returning residents still made up the largest share of entrants, their numbers declined slightly, further highlighting the expanding role of tourism in Belize's holiday economy.

The connection between Belize's happiness ranking and its travel trends is not coincidental. A country that is stable, welcoming, and content is more likely to attract visitors seeking authentic and positive experiences. At the same time, increased travel activity contributes to economic growth, job creation, and cultural exchange—factors that can, in turn, enhance national well-being.

As Belize continues to balance growth with sustainability, these parallel trends offer a compelling narrative: a nation that is not only content within itself but increasingly attractive to the outside world. To view the Happiness Index, visit the website: https://www.worldhappiness.report/data-sharing/ or this week's Editorial on page 3 for a technical report.

Corozal Bay's Thea Garcia Ramirez Improving Visibility and Safety Beyond Easter

Constituents of Corozal Bay and visitors alike are enjoying the improved lighting with the installation of about 50 new streetlights along the coastline. But whose counting, in the lead-up to the Easter holiday weekend, the effort on the shoreline was made to enhance visibility and public safety.

In an interview with LoveFM, Hon. Ramirez pointed out to the following: The initiative comes in response to recent incidents of vandalism which had left sections of the area poorly lit and raised concerns among residents. The representative explained that the project was the result of coordinated efforts among multiple stakeholders aimed at restoring and strengthening infrastructure in the community.

As part of the initiative, members of the PUP Corozal Marshalls contributed by painting the light poles, helping to improve the overall appearance of the area while supporting the restoration works.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Corozal North, Corozal District; San Jose, Otro Benque, Orange WalDistrict; Los Lagos, Lord's Bank, Sandhill, Belize District; Cristo Reyo, Cayo District; Silk Grass, Stann Creek District; San Pedro Columbia, Toledo District.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Development Finance Corporation, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

A: COROZAL DISTRICT:

1. **Parcel No. 1086 Corozal North, Corozal District:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	1086
The freehold property of Mr. Darwin Donavan Williams.		

2. **Parcel No. 3015 Corozal North, Corozal District:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	3015
The freehold property of Mr. George Levy and Ms. Lilia Chun.		

B: ORANGE WALK DISTRICT:

1. **Parcel No.879 San Jose Village, Orange Walk District:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Jose/ San Pablo	1	879
The freehold property of Mr. Juan Marcos Teck.		

2. **Parcel No. 594 Otro Benque Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Orange Walk	4	594
The freehold property of Mr. Octavio Edilberto Mesh.		

C: BELIZE DISTRICT:

1. **Parcel No. 7026 Mile 13 in the Los Lagos area, Ladyville, Belize District:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ladyville/ Lords Bank	16	7026
The freehold property of Mr. Kevin Kemele Wade.		

2. **0.95 Acres Sandhill Village, near Mile 16 ½ Philip Goldson Highway, Belize District:**

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 2, situate along the Philip Goldson Highway Near Mile 16.5 Sandhill Village, Belize District, containing 0.95 acres of land held under a Deed of Conveyance being the freehold property of Mr. Rafael Yamany Gongora & Ms. Sonia Jex.

3. **Parcel No. 3466 Lord's Bank Village, Belize District:**

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Ladyville/Lord's Bank	16	3466
The freehold property of Mr. Glenford Alvin Williams.		

D: CAYO DISTRICT:

1. **Parcel No. 51 Cristo Rey Village, Cayo District:**

All that lot piece or parcel of land being Block No. 51, situate near Cristo Rey Village Area, Cayo District, containing 30.00 acres of land freehold property of Mr. Jaime Noel Marin and Ms. Nefretery Nancy Marin.

E: STANN CREEK DISTRICT:

1. **766.235 S.M being Lot No. 256 in Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek District:**

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot. 256 situate in Silk Grass Village, Stann Creek District, the freehold property of Mr. Lucero Kristel Cruz and Mr. Marvin Salam surety for Mr. Lucero Kristel Cruz.

E: TOLEDO DISTRICT:

1. **1665.280 S.M being Lot No. 12 in San Pedro Columbia Village, Toledo District:**

All that piece or parcel of land being Lot. 12 situate in San Pedro Columbia Village, Toledo District, held under a Deed of Conveyance being the freehold property of Ms. Silvina Kib and Mr. Robert Chavarria.

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"
TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions
DFC FINANCING AVAILABLE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS

Celebrating Women

United Women's Group Executive, Fort George Chapter!

Just at the end of Women's Month, the newly sworn in, United Women's Group Executive, Fort George Chapter, was delighted to distribute tokens of appreciation to the incredible women of our community.

They proudly honored not only our resilient women entrepreneurs but also the many remarkable women of Fort George who inspire us all with their strength, dedication, and achievements.

Let's continue to uplift and empower each other!

Delivering Homes For Easter

Fort George Residents are a great example of planBelize reaching out to Belizeans. Erika Twist and Natalie Fuller received the keys to their very own homes. This brought the spirit of Easter direct to their hearts. Their Area Representative, Henry Charles Usher, officially handed over the keys to the starter home.

Their dreams are now a reality that they will live in and savour—Easter brings a type of resurrection to them with a new roof.

Please note, these homes are all over Belize and this budget year more are yet to be handed over.

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, April 1, 2026

The Cabinet met on 31st March 2026

• Cabinet gave its approval to impose a one-year moratorium on the issuance of new licenses to use the 66-foot reserve and seabed to construct docks/piers and over-water structures in coastal/marine urban and coastal/marine peri-urban areas. This moratorium is to allow the Government to undertake a comprehensive nationwide inventory of existing structures and review and strengthen the regulatory framework to enhance monitoring, compliance, and enforcement mechanisms for effective management of the reserve and seabed.
• Cabinet gave its endorsement of a Water Sector Adaptation Plan for Belize and approved a roadmap to prioritize the necessary actions and implementation strategy to identify vulnerabilities, gaps, and priority actions to develop a 10-year programme to include all pertinent ministries and sectors.
• Cabinet gave its approval to consolidate the National Adaptation Plans of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Health, Fisheries, and Coastal Zone into a single Multisectoral National Plan aimed at addressing escalating climate risks, safeguarding development gains, and building long-term resilience. This will strengthen Belize's capacity to identify and address climate risks in a coordinated manner while embedding climate resilience at the core of Belize's national development planning, allowing for enhanced access to climate finance.
• Cabinet gave its approval for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to sign the Protocol amending Article 84 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which underpins trade in goods within the CSME, including the list of conditions to be complied with and the rules that must be satisfied for goods to qualify as being of Community origin. Furthermore, Cabinet authorized the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to seek the ratification of the protocol from the Senate.
• Cabinet approved the inclusion of aviation personnel on the approved list of skills categories under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Cabinet directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to notify the CARICOM Secretariat of this decision and to coordinate with the Immigration Department and the relevant aviation authorities to ensure this decision is reflected in national administrative procedures with respect to the issuing of CSME Skills Certificates.
• Cabinet gave its approval of proposed modifications to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Belize Compact, including the reallocation of US$20 million of MCC Funding from the Education Project to the Energy Project. In addition, the Government committed to provide counterpart financing to support the Compact.
• Cabinet endorsed a proposal for the Government of Belize to partner with the Institute of Innovation and Growth and the Global Event Partners to host the first Belize International Energy forum in September 2026. This Forum will bring stakeholders together to explore low-carbon development strategies aimed at achieving high shares of renewable electricity generation within a decade.
• On 17th March 2026, Cabinet gave its support and approval of a Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Country Work Programme. This pivotal, actionable roadmap will be designed to integrate disaster risk management into every facet of national development by establishing a comprehensive, multi-year strategy to enhance Belize's ability to plan, implement, and monitor disaster risk management initiatives. This Work Programme is for the period 2026 to 2030.
• Cabinet was apprised of the status of the technical review of the recommendations submitted by the People's Constitution Commission (PCC), which outlined a structured methodology to ensure that the recommendations from the PCC are defined and legally assessed in a roadmap for appropriate constitutional reform.
• Finally, Cabinet wishes all Belizeans a safe and happy Easter.

Ends

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 70 containing 873.440 square meters situate in the New Hattieville Area, Belize District, Belize bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 681 of 2001 attached to Ministers Fiat Grant No. 681 of 2001, Plan No. 3545, Reg No. 20, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 10th day of December, 2018 being the freehold interest of LEE ROY HOWER.

ALL THAT LOT, piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 1 situate at the Boom Pine Ridge Belize River, Block No. 114 comprising 0.45 acres of land as shown on Plan Entry No. 19811 Register No. 37, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 22nd day of November, 2022 being the freehold interest of ANDY JOSLYN GILHARRY.

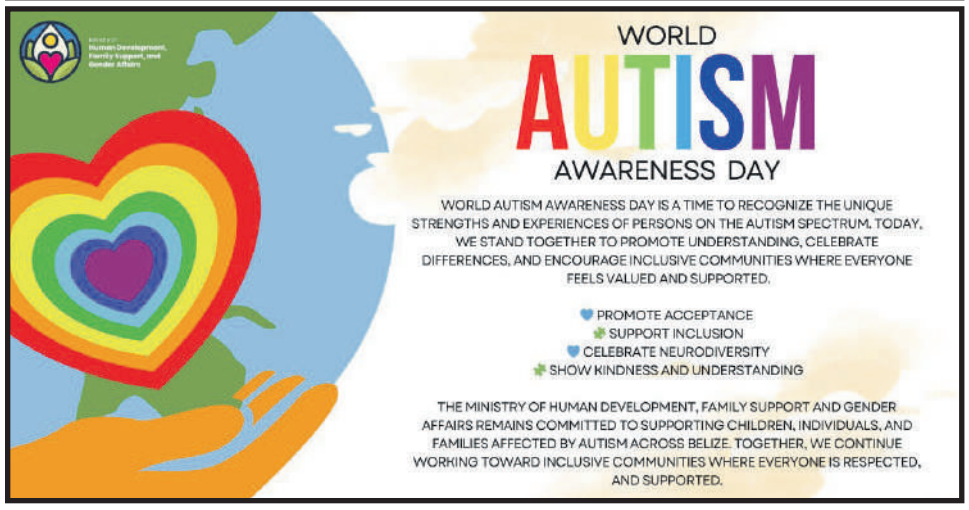
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 2 situate at the Boom Pine Ridge Belize River, Block 114 comprising 0.23 acres of land , as shown on Plan Entry No. 19811 Register No. 37 held, under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 22nd day of November, 2022 being the freehold interest of ANDY JOSLYN GILHARRY.

ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land being a portion of 9.45 acres of land situate at approximately Mile 5 on the Burrel Boom Mussell Creek Road, Burrel Boom Village, Belize District, Belize being the Lot Nos. 10 & 12 each containing 1388.795 square yards and which Plan has been duly authenticated and recorded at the Lands and Survey Department on Belmopan in Surveyor's Plans Book Register No. 21 at Entry No. 3040, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 3rd day of November 2005 being the freehold interest of ERSSIE GOFF.

Parcel No. 938, Block No. 4, San Jose Palmar Registration Section containing 0.796 Acre (s) situate in San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of JOEZER ALAN REYES surety for ANNA LUISA REYES.

ALL THAT LOT PIECE OR PARCEL of land being Lot No. 70 containing 329.911 square meters situate South of the Western Highway, near Mile 17 1/2, Belize District, Belize bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 2058 on Minister's Fiat Grant No. 113 of 1999 dated 26th March, 1999, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated 21st day of January, 2010 being the freehold interest of OMAR LISBEY CASTILLO.

DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF APRIL 2026


WORLD
AUTISM
AWARENESS DAY
WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY IS A TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS AND EXPERIENCES OF PERSONS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM. TODAY, WE STAND TOGETHER TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING, CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES, AND ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE FEELS VALUED AND SUPPORTED.
PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE
SUPPORT INCLUSION
CELEBRATE NEURODIVERSITY
SHOW KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING
THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY SUPPORT AND GENDER AFFAIRS REMAINS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING CHILDREN, INDIVIDUALS, AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY AUTISM ACROSS BELIZE. TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE WORKING TOWARD INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE IS RESPECTED, AND SUPPORTED.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM
PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: VEHICLE

San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicle. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this vehicle are sold.

2018 Silver Ford F -150 Pickup

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"
TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions

EASTER 2026
HIGHLIGHTS

BELIZE CITY

SARTENEJA, COROZAL

BENQUE VIEJO DEL CARMEN

COROZAL

BELMOPAN

HOPKINS

PUNTA GORDA

right on track — **'Seguimos Muy Bien'** — vamos bien

Ministry of Agriculture Hosts in Cayo District

Exchange Program for Southern Farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries, through the Department of Co-operatives, held an agricultural exchange program on Monday, March 30, 2026, in the Cayo District, bringing together farmers from the Stann Creek District. The initiative aimed to strengthen knowledge-sharing and expose southern farmers to modern agricultural production systems and technologies.

The program opened with remarks from Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth Industries, and Hon. Alex Balona, Minister of State, who underscored the Government's commitment to policies that drive job creation, improve livelihoods, and boost GDP and foreign exchange earnings.

Highlights of the exchange included:

• Sayab Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited: Farmers toured cover-structure production systems and processing facilities, observing value-added practices and marketing strategies. Crops included lettuce, kale, herbs, and sweet peppers, with produce distributed to major markets such as San Ignacio, San Pedro, Caye Caulker, Placencia, and Belize City.

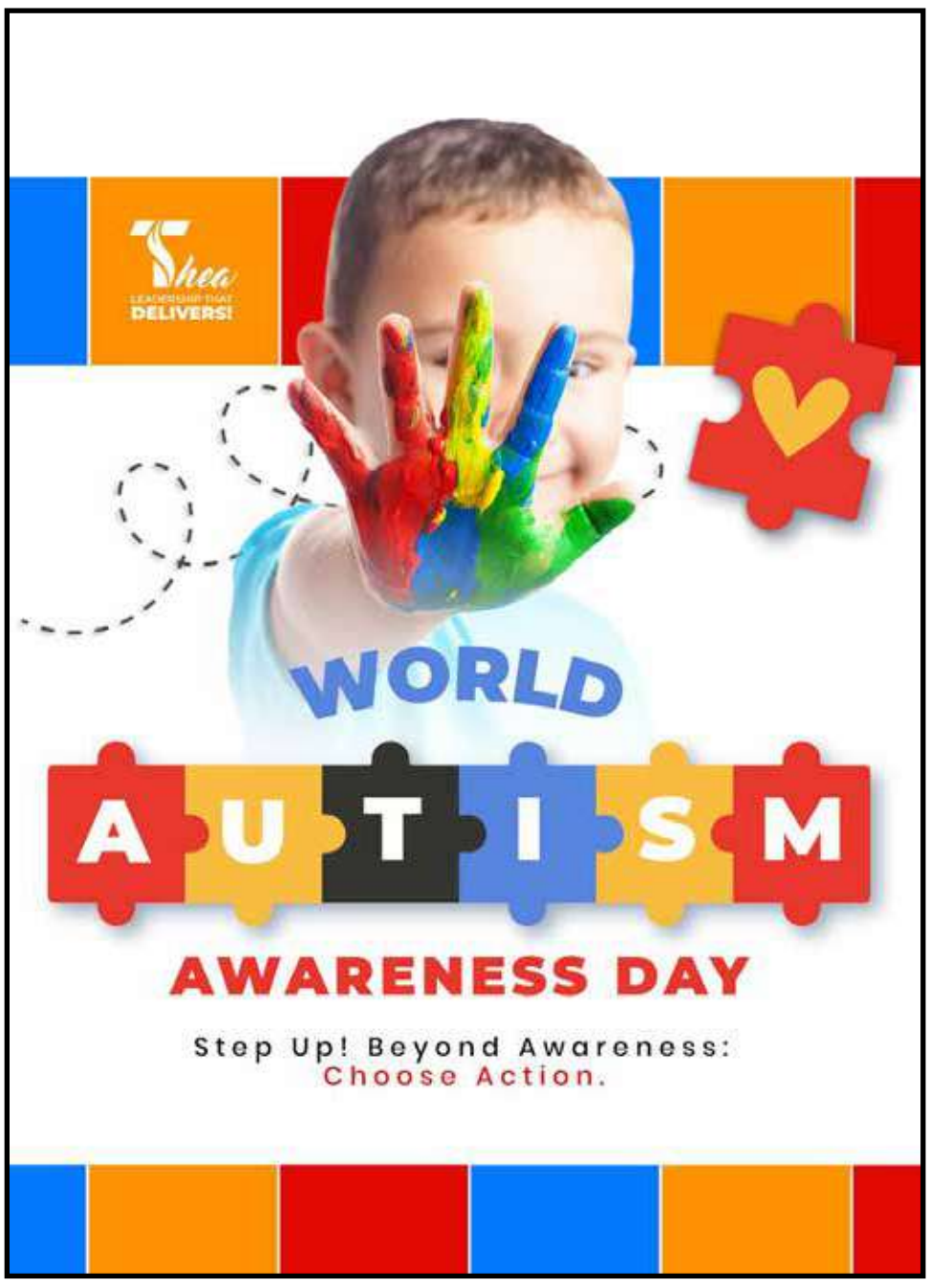
• Oxmul Farmers' Co-operative: Participants witnessed open-field systems enhanced by plastic mulching, drip irrigation, fertigation, and smart agriculture sensor technology. Crops such as cantaloupes, papayas, and watermelons showcased how modern methods deliver higher productivity and improved returns.

• Maya Green Growers Co-operative: Farmers observed peanut and carrot cultivation and saw a carrot washer in action. "This machine does the work of three farmers," noted the chairman, emphasizing how co-operative philosophy strengthens member commitment and bonds.

• San Antonio Women's Co-operative Society: Over a working lunch, members shared their journey from a small chicken project to a medium-sized enterprise, highlighting diversification and resilience.

• Agro-processing Unit, Central Farm: The laboratory team presented innovative products, including a new plantain, cassava, and cheese-based item introduced by Dr. Maria Yacab, with strong potential in Belize's local market.

Southern farmers expressed enthusiasm for the innovations and co-operative models demonstrated. Many confirmed their continued interest in formalizing and registering new co-operatives in the near future. (release)



Public Service Modernization and Efficiency
GoB - JUNT Advance Discussions

The following occurred in the Pre-Easter drive but very important. Release: On Monday, March 30, 2026, the Government's Union Consultation Team, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Cordel Hyde, met with representatives from the Belize National Teachers Union (BNTU), the Public Service Union (PSU), and the Association of Public Service Senior Managers (APSSM) under the Joint Union Negotiating Team (JUNT) to continue dialogue on priority reforms within the public service.

Key areas of discussion included initiatives to strengthen human resource management within the public service, as well as updates on the Inter-American Development Bank-supported Civil Service Modernization Project, which seeks to improve efficiency, accountability, and service delivery across government.

The meeting also reviewed reports from the Committee for Enhanced Efficiency in Revenue Collection and the Committee to Evaluate and Advise on Cost-Saving Measures. These reports guided discussions on improving revenue performance and identifying targeted, sustainable cost-saving strategies within government operations.

Union representatives were given the opportunity to raise concerns affecting their respective memberships. Both sides engaged in constructive dialogue on practical approaches to address these matters and identify pathways toward resolution.

The meeting reaffirmed the Government's commitment to collaboration with Belize's labour unions in strengthening and modernizing the public service. (release end)

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

INVITATION TO BID

INSTITUTION: MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Tender: Procurement of Solid Waste Transfer Stations and Regional Sanitary Landfill Services (LOT-Based)

The Government of Belize, acting through the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Solid Waste Management, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified service providers for the provision of **Loading, Hauling, Transfer, Disposal and Associated Solid Waste Management Services (Transfer Stations), and the Spreading, Compacting, Covering, and Other Heavy Equipment Services (Regional Sanitary Landfill Facility)** under a LOT-based procurement arrangement.

Lot No.	Facility	Type	Contract Period
Lot 1	Belize City Solid Waste Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 months
Lot 2	Burrell Boom Solid Waste Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 months
Lot 3	Belmopan Solid Waste Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 months
Lot 4	San Ignacio / Santa Elena Solid Waste Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 months
Lot 5	Dangriga Solid Waste Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 months
Lot 6	Orange Walk Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 Months
Lot 7	Corozal Transfer Station	Transfer Station	36 Months
Lot 8	Regional Sanitary Landfill – Mile 24, George Price Highway	Landfill	36 MONTHS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

a. **Bidders may submit bids for one, several, or all lots**. Evaluation and award will be conducted **per lot.** Subject to demonstrated capacity to deliver, the Employer may award multiple Lots to a single Bidder.
b. This invitation is open to all eligible and qualified Bidders.
c. Qualification requirements are provided in Section II of the Bidding Documents. Prospective Bidders' attention is drawn to the Instructions to Bidders in the Bidding Documents.
d. The complete Bidding Document in English may be obtained by interested Bidders by way of email application to the email addresses below:
Procurement Unit – MSDCCSWM, procurement.officer@environment.gov.bz with CC to procurement.asst@environment.gov.bz
e. The Bidding Documents will be emailed to the Bidder at the email address specified in the email application.
f. Bids must be delivered to the address indicated in the bidding document at or before **10:00 a.m**. on **April 23rd, 2026.** Electronic bidding **shall not be permitted**. Late bids **will be rejected**.
g. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Belize at WTO MC14

Engages CARICOM and Global Partners

Belize participated in the 14th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC14), held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from March 26–30, 2026, where it actively advanced its national and regional trade priorities within a challenging global trade environment. The delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Harold Young, Belize's Permanent Representative to the WTO, with support from Mr. Andy Sutherland, Director General for Foreign Trade, and Mr. Berisford Codd, Senior Trade Economist. The team coordinated closely with the CARICOM Ministerial caucus, while also engaging within the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group.

At the margins of the conference, Belize held several bilateral meetings with key partners, including Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, the United Arab Emirates, and Japan. These engagements provided opportunities to deepen cooperation, explore market access issues, and reinforce Belize's commitment to constructive dialogue within the multilateral trading system.

Conference outcomes reflected the increasingly multipolar nature of global trade relations, which limited consensus on several longstanding negotiating issues. While some progress was recorded on fisheries subsidies and elements of special and differential treatment, significant concerns remain unresolved for small and vulnerable economies such as Belize, particularly in the areas of agriculture, e- commerce, intellectual property, and WTO reform.

Belize placed particular emphasis on the need for transparent, predictable, and enforceable trade rules that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Strengthening these rules is critical to enabling Belizean firms to participate more effectively in international trade, diversify exports, and create sustainable employment opportunities at home.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade notes that while MC14 did not deliver all the outcomes sought by developing countries, it nonetheless provided an important platform for Belize to assert its interests, build alliances, and contribute constructively to ongoing discussions on WTO reform. Belize will continue to work with CARICOM partners and other like-minded members to strengthen dispute settlement, enhance transparency, and embed development considerations in future reform efforts.

Looking ahead, Belize remains committed to export diversification and market expansion as key pillars of its trade strategy. These efforts will be pursued in tandem with domestic trade policy reviews to ensure that Belizean producers and exporters are well positioned to navigate an evolving global trade landscape. (release)

LETTER TO THE Editor

A New Chapter for Port Loyola

Dear Editor,

As a lifelong resident of the Port Loyola constituency for nearly 30 years, I write with pride and cautious optimism about the future of our community.

For decades, many of us have felt overlooked, navigating daily challenges with limited infrastructure and opportunities. Today, however, we are on the brink of transformation. The proposed nearly billion-dollar cruise port project represents more than just investment—it represents jobs, economic activity, and renewed hope for families right here in Port Loyola.

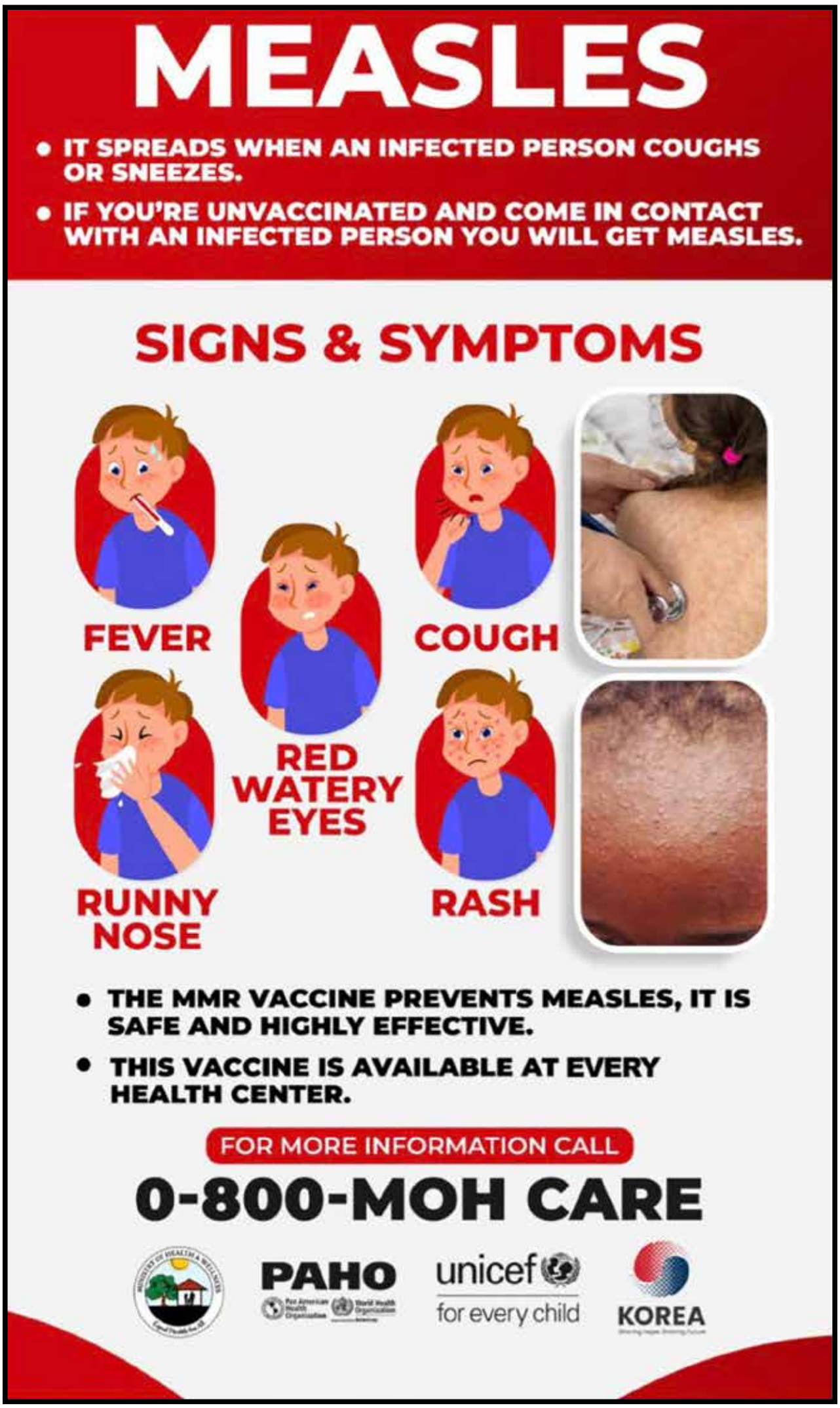
I want to thank the Government for having the vision and the will to move this initiative forward. Projects of this scale require courage, planning, and commitment, and it is clear that the intention is to bring meaningful development to communities like ours that have long waited for their turn.

Equally important is the planned access road to be developed, which will come out near the Cisco Construction compound. Residents along Faber's Road know too well the daily congestion caused by narrow streets and increased traffic. This new route promises much-needed relief, improving not only traffic flow but also safety and accessibility for residents.

While past decisions left some of our infrastructure struggling to keep up, it is encouraging to now see solutions being put in place.

For the first time in a long while, many of us in Port Loyola can truly see progress on the horizon. Let us ensure that this development benefits the people who call this community home.

Sincerely,
James S.


MEASLES
• IT SPREADS WHEN AN INFECTED PERSON COUGHS OR SNEEZES.
• IF YOU'RE UNVACCINATED AND COME IN CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON YOU WILL GET MEASLES.
SIGNS & SYMPTOMS
FEVER
COUGH
RED WATERY EYES
RUNNY NOSE
RASH
• THE MMR VACCINE PREVENTS MEASLES, IT IS SAFE AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE.
• THIS VACCINE IS AVAILABLE AT EVERY HEALTH CENTER.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
0-800-MOH CARE
PAHO
unicef
for every child
KOREA

Advancing the NRDS 2026–2030:

Inter-Ministerial Coordination Meeting

April 8 - The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, and Local Government convened a strategic inter-ministerial coordination meeting to advance the National Rural Development Strategy.

This session brought together technical experts from the Ministry of Economic Transformation, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and the Ministry of Agriculture to align priority initiatives and establish a unified framework for donor engagement. By fostering this high-level collaboration, we are ensuring a synchronized and strategic approach to driving sustainable growth across our rural communities.

GOB Engages Consultant

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE LABOUR ACT

March 27, 2026 - The Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour, is pleased to announce the engagement of Trinity Consultancy Services Firm to undertake Phase I of the Comprehensive Review of the Labour Act (Cap. 297, Revised Edition 2020).

This important initiative forms part of the Government's broader commitment to modernizing Belize's labour legislation to reflect current labour market realities, align with international labour standards, and strengthen protections for both workers and employers.

The consultancy, which officially commences on March 27, 2026, will focus on conducting a Legal and Institutional Gap Analysis of the existing Labour Act and related legislation. This phase will assess gaps, inconsistencies, and enforcement challenges, while identifying priority areas for reform.

The review comes at a critical time, as Belize continues to respond to evolving workplace dynamics, including new forms of employment, technological advancements, and the need for stronger occupational safety and health frameworks. It also supports Belize's obligations under ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions and aligns with national development priorities, including the Decent Work Country Programme (2024–2029).

The consultancy will be implemented over a four-month period and will involve engagement with key stakeholders, including government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, and social partners, in keeping with the principles of tripartism and social dialogue.

Ms. Tanya Santos, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of Immigration, Governance and Labour, emphasized the significance of this milestone:

"This review represents a critical step in ensuring that Belize's labour legislation is modern, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of today's workforce and economy. We are committed to a transparent and consultative process that strengthens our labour administration and promotes decent work for all."

The Labour Department, under the leadership of the Labour Commissioner, will manage and oversee the consultancy in collaboration with the Labour Act Review Committee and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Government of Belize looks forward to the successful completion of this phase and the continued advancement of labour law reform in Belize. (release)

WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Ministry of Health
Western Health Region
WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL
SCAN TO REGISTER FOR
NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
(NHI)
Scan to Register for NHI
Use your phone camera to scan
BENEFITS OF NHI BELIZE
Affordable Healthcare
Quality care at little to no cost
Universal Coverage
Healthcare for all Belizeans
Need help? Visit us:
Western Regional Hospital
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Access to Primary Care
Checkups, diagnostics, maternal & child health
Support for Chronic Conditions
Care for diabetes, hypertension & more
Low Out-of-Pocket Costs
Small co-pay (about 10%)
SCAN • REGISTER • STAY HEALTHY

FI WE BOLEDO

DELIVERING NATIONAL IMPACT

April 9, 2026 - The government's decision to reclaim control of our national lottery is now beginning to show tangible returns, as revenues from the sector are being redirected toward public services, healthcare, and sports development.

In 2023, under the leadership of Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, the Government of Belize reacquired the Boledo and lottery operations, establishing Belize Government Lotteries Limited (BGLL). The move was framed as a people-centered initiative, with a commitment that profits would directly benefit Belizeans through key national programs.

That promise is now materializing. In early 2026, BGLL handed over $1 million to the National Sports Council as part of a $2 million annual commitment. This marks the first major disbursement of earnings to the sporting sector, providing long-awaited support for athletes, facilities, and development programs nationwide.

These funds will be used to upgrade sporting infrastructure, strengthen national athlete training, and implement strategic policies aimed at improving Belize's performance on regional and international stages. For many in the sporting community, the contribution represents a significant step forward after years of limited resources.

Beyond sports, lottery revenues have also played a critical role in expanding access to healthcare through the National Health Insurance of Belize (NHI). The initiative has allowed residents to benefit from low-to-no-cost medical consultations, laboratory services, and essential medications, easing the financial burden on families across the country.

The social impact extends further. Unclaimed lottery winnings are being redirected toward charitable causes, with organizations such as the Belize Red Cross receiving $55,000 to support disaster preparedness and community resilience efforts.

Financially, the Fi We Boledo has proven to be a strong revenue generator. In 2025 alone, the system recorded $25 million in profits while paying out $94 million to players nationwide. Looking ahead, projections indicate that annual profits could exceed $20 million, funds that are expected to be reinvested into public service improvements and national development initiatives.

The transformation of our National Lotteries from a privately operated enterprise into a state-managed system reflects a broader policy shift toward using national resources to directly uplift citizens. As these funds continue to flow into priority sectors, the initiative is increasingly being seen as a model for reinvesting public revenue into meaningful social and economic progress.

With early disbursements already making an impact, Belizeans are now witnessing the practical benefits of a policy that was once only a promise—one that aims to ensure that the gains from Boledo are shared by the people it serves.

MoHW Advises Public of Measles Outbreak in the Americas

Belmopan, April 8, 2026.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness informs the public of a rapidly growing measles outbreak in the region of the Americas. Three months into 2026, the region has already recorded 75% of the total cases reported in 2025.

Since the start of the year, the majority of the cases, along with 11 deaths, have occurred in neighbouring countries Guatemala and Mexico. This outbreak in the Americas is expected to continue growing in the coming weeks.

The MoHW reminds the public that measles is a highly contagious and serious viral illness with possible long-term complications. Symptoms typically start 7–21 days after contact with an infected person. The illness begins with fever, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash that starts at the hairline, spreads down to the chest, back, and limbs, and then to the rest of the body. Persons are contagious four days before and four days after the rash appears.

Measles is preventable through vaccination. The MMR vaccine is safe and highly effective, with two doses providing lifetime immunity. Belize recorded 87.9% vaccination coverage for MMR-1 in 2025. While the majority of the population is vaccinated against measles, 90% of unvaccinated persons will contract measles if exposed to this highly contagious disease.

Individuals who are not vaccinated are encouraged to visit the nearest health facility for more information or to receive the vaccine. Unvaccinated travelers should get vaccinated at least two weeks before travelling.

If you have fever and rash, please visit the nearest health facility for medical attention or call the Ministry of Health hotline at 0-800-MOH-CARE (0-800-664-2273).

The Ministry urges the public to protect their own health and the health of their community. (release)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES

Yo Creek Village, San Jose Palmar, Orange Walk District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties are sold.

1. Parcel No. 164 Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Yo Creek Village	4	164
The freehold property of Mr. Cesar Jovel and Ms. Lilia Luna.		

2. Parcel No. 49 corner of Balam and Donicio Street, San Jose Palmar, Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Jose Palmar	4	49
The freehold property of Ms. Joel Flores.		

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize
Project: Strengthening Public Expenditure Management in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1038 – P00012
Duration: Twenty-Four (24) Months
Duty Station: Ministry of Finance, Belmopan (In Office)
Deadline: **May 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)**

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the **"**Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) project", being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to engage the contractual services of a **"Assistant Project Manager"** for the Central Executing Unit".

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for application online at https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version..

ATTN:
Procurement Officer
Ministry of Finance
3rd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan
Tel: 501-828-9228
procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: "Assistant Project Manager – Central Executing Unit" – [Applicant's Name].

BELIZE AT CITEL ASSEMBLY

ADOPTING SAN JOSE DECLARATION

"accelerating digital transformation and reducing the digital divide"

From March 16-19, 2026, the Government of Belize, through the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics (MPUEL), participated in the IX Ordinary Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), a hemispheric body comprising 35 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Dr. Leroy Almendarez, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry, represented Belize at the Assembly held in San José, Costa Rica, where Ministers, regulators, and industry leaders from across the Americas convened to define the strategic direction of telecommunications and digital development for the next four years.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, member states adopted the San José Declaration (2026–2030), a landmark regional framework aimed at accelerating digital transformation and reducing the digital divide across the hemisphere.

The Declaration prioritizes:

1. Expansion of high-capacity digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved communities.
2. Strengthening of regulatory frameworks to support investment, innovation, and competition.
3. Promotion of universal access and digital inclusion.
4. Enhancement of network resilience and cybersecurity.
5. Greater regional coordination in spectrum management and emerging technologies.

Dr. Almendarez emphasized that Belize's participation reflects its growing role in shaping regional telecommunications policy and advancing a national digital agenda aligned with hemispheric priorities.

"CITEL brings together all 35 countries of the Americas, and Belize's active participation ensures that our national priorities are aligned with a broader regional vision. This strengthens our ability to modernize our telecommunications sector, expand connectivity, and deliver meaningful digital opportunities for all Belizeans."

Dr. Almendarez also highlighted the importance of collaboration among Caribbean states within the CITEL framework.

"For small states like Belize, regional cooperation is essential. By working closely with our CARICOM partners, we can amplify our voice, advocate for shared priorities such as affordability, resilience, and inclusion, and secure the partnerships needed to accelerate our digital transformation."

Belize's engagement comes at a critical juncture as the Government advances key initiatives to expand broadband access nationwide and modernize the telecommunications regulatory environment under the oversight of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Through its participation in CITEL, Belize continues to position itself as an active and constructive partner in regional telecommunications policy, leveraging international cooperation and technical partnerships to support national development.

The Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics remains committed to translating regional commitments into concrete national actions that enhance connectivity, improve service delivery, and drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth. (release)

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASSISTANT CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Internal Audit Department.

The Internal Audit Department is an independent, objective assurance and consulting function that evaluates and improves the Central Bank's internal controls, risk management, and governance processes. The Assistant Chief Internal Auditor conducts specialized audits and leads the assigned team in assessing internal controls, effectively communicating findings and recommendations, and monitoring responses and ameliorative actions.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist the Chief Internal Auditor in the strategic planning and management of the Internal Audit Department.
- Provide guidance and performance management to the audit team, ensuring quality control assurance on audit engagement planning, performance, and reporting.
- Communicate audit findings and recommendations to management.
- Oversee the Internal Audit Department's continuous monitoring activities to give assurance on the integrity of critical Central Bank processes and systems.
- Monitor and validate the implementation of audit recommendations and management action plans.
- Coordinate and provide training and development opportunities to ensure the audit team meets the Internal Audit Continued Professional Development (CPD) standard.
- Provide expert consultation on the development and installation of systems and procedures and maintenance of a strong and effective control environment.
- Plan, manage, and perform assigned specialized audits.
- Lead investigations into suspected fraudulent activities and report findings to the Chief Internal Auditor.
- Perform other duties necessary to fulfill the requirements of the audit function as assigned.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A recognized professional certification in accounting (CPA/ ACCA) and/or internal auditing (CIA, CISA), with
  - A master's degree in accounting, banking, or finance from a recognized university, with at least three (3) years of relevant experience; **or**
  - A bachelor's degree in accounting, banking, or finance with at least six (6) years of relevant experience.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of the Central Bank of Belize Act, the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, internal control processes, auditing, and accounting principles; investigative and reporting skills; ability to apply relevant methodologies and tools effectively to audit engagements; computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Communication, Analytical Ability, Job knowledge, Organisational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Quality of Output, Decision Making, Delegation and Empowerment, Strategic Management, Coaching and Development

Submit the following documents by: Wednesday, 15 April 2026

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two (2) current references (Both must be professional references)
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P.O. Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Assistant Chief Internal Auditor- Internal Audit Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

BESPLAN 2.0 Unveiled

April 9, 2026 - Belize's education sector took a significant step forward today with the official launch of the Belize Education Sector Plan (BESPlan) 2.0 for 2026–2030, setting out a comprehensive roadmap aimed at transforming learning and expanding access nationwide.

The launch, hosted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, was held at the Fort George Hotel and Spa in Belize City, bringing together key government officials, educators, and stakeholders to outline the plan's priorities and long-term vision.

Chief Education Officer Yolanda Gongora described the initiative as a collective national effort. *"Welcome to this important occasion as we preview, present, and reflect on our Belize Education Sector Plan 2026 - 2030, which is a road map that represents not policy directions but a shared national commitment to quality across all levels of the education system,"* she said.

At the center of the plan is a major financial commitment to education. Minister Francis Fonseca emphasized the importance of transparency and collaboration in delivering results. *"This event is not just about unveiling BESPlan 2026 - 2030 2.0. It is really about accountability, it is about transparency, and it's about partnerships that make education work in Belize,"* Fonseca stated, noting that approximately $300 million has been allocated to the sector.

He added, *"I always say that I am very, very proud of the Belizean people. Because the Belizean people have always attached great importance to education. Our job is to build on the foundation we have established over the many years."*

One of the plan's key highlights is the expansion of the Education Upliftment Project, which will grow from 23 schools serving over 11,000 students to 27 schools reaching approximately 14,000 students. The increased investment is expected to further strengthen access to quality education and support improved outcomes.

The plan also reinforces the government's commitment to free secondary education, ensuring that all students enrolled in government secondary schools will have 100 percent free access. This initiative is expected to bring financial relief to more than 8,500 families across the country.

Addressing student welfare, the National Healthy Start Feeding Program is set for significant expansion. The program, which currently feeds over 15,000 students daily, will increase its reach to 20,000 students in the next phase, with long-term plans to serve more than 35,000 students annually. Investments in school transportation will also expand, with additional bus runs aimed at improving access for both students and teachers.

Director of Policy, Planning, Research, and Evaluation Ricardo Gideon highlighted the importance of sustained support for students. *"For many families, the path to education is not always easy. The challenges are not only getting a school but also making sure that the child remains in school and is supported and succeeds thereafter,"* he noted.

Technology and innovation also feature prominently in BESPlan 2.0. Director Namrita Balani pointed to the growing reach of digital learning initiatives. *"78% of our primary and secondary schools are ConnectED because curiosity needs the freedom to explore and the space to grow through mastery, not memorization,"* she said, adding that investments in teacher development are key to driving classroom innovation.

The plan is structured around themes of transformation, curiosity, and future-focused design, aiming to align Belize's education system with evolving global standards while addressing local needs.

With strong financial backing and a focus on inclusion, BESPlan 2.0 signals a continued push toward building a more equitable and effective education system—one that prepares Belizean students not only for today, but for the opportunities of tomorrow.

Specific Procurement Notice

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Request for Bids
Small Works
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Belize
Name of Project: Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project
Contract Title: Export Corral for BLPA
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: P172592
RFB Reference No.: BZ-SIF-519249-CW-RFB

1. The *Government of Belize has received* financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project* and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Construction of Export Corral for BLPA.

2. The *Belize Social Investment Fund* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders *for the construction of Export Corral for BLPA.*

3. Bidding will be conducted through a national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Social Investment Fund, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* at the address given below.

5. The bidding document in English may be requested by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before *April 24th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. local time.* Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on *April 24th, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.*

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security" of BZD$152,000.00*

8. "Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document."

9. The address referred to above is:

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone: +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org
Cc : jahnina.reyes@sifbelize.org

Proud Moment - EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINER (EPC) MANAGEMENT

Farmers are stepping up to the challenge of shared responsibility in the proper disposal of empty pesticide containers!

*Under a collaboration agreement with the Resilient Rural Belize Programme, Producer Organizations were equipped with tools necessary for responsible pesticide life-cycle management, including these EPC mini-collection units.

*Some months later we are now going back to farmers' fields to assess whether the units are being put to use, and we are beginning to see that indeed they are!!

*Follow us to see what will become of these collected, triple rinsed and perforated empty pesticide containers!

*Next Step: TRANSPORTATION to a centralized collection center for SHREDDING to reduce volume.

BIG thanks to our team of Inspectors/Trainers and the work they do under our National Training & Certification and Farmer Assistance Programmes. (post)

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Romelio Santoya** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Fabiolas Shop"** located in Chunox Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Melicia E. Sutherland** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"All's Cool Spot"** located in Libertad Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

SUPERVISOR, ACCOUNTS

The Central Bank invites qualified individuals to join its Accounts and Budget Department.

The Supervisor, Accounts, is responsible for assisting with the supervision and coordination of the activities of the Accounts Unit to ensure accurate, efficient, and timely processing of payments and accounting transactions, while maintaining compliance with the Bank's policies, procedures and accounting standards.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Oversee the daily processing of cash, local and foreign payments to ensure accuracy, completeness and timeliness.
- Supervise and evaluate performance of direct reports.
- Verify invoice payments to ensure proper approval, AML/CFT compliance, and adherence to establish procedures.
- Review and post accounting transactions in the Bank's accounting and Automated Payment and Securities Settlement System in accordance with accounting principles and internal policies.
- Prepare monthly journals entries to record estimated expenses and accrued income.
- Maintain and verify registers for payments and accounting transactions and ensure proper filing of posting vouchers in accordance with Bank's records management policies and procedure.
- Verify reconciliations, progress report, audit confirmation, and abandoned property transactions to support accuracy and integrity of accounts records.
- Assist with updating the accounting sections of the Department's Procedure Manual and Business Continuity Plan to reflect policy, procedural, and IFRS-related changes.
- Perform vault custodian responsibilities, including the issue and receipts of local and foreign currency and the recording of inventory movements.
- Perform Central Bank of Belize Pension Fund and Staff Club custodian responsibilities.
- Perform duties of a "B" signatory as authorized under the Bank's list of Authorized Signatories.
- Perform other duties that may be assigned from time to time.

The applicants should possess the following:

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business management or a related field from a recognized University. At least five (5) years' working experience in accounting, finance, auditing, business management, project management or other related fields in the business environment.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge of accounting principles; Knowledge of Business and Management Principles; Excellent negotiations and organizational skills; Knowledge of strategic management approach; and Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

COMPETENCIES

- Communication, Analytical Ability, Job knowledge, Organizational Ability, Problem Solving/Judgement, Quality of Output, Interpersonal Relations, Digital Ability, and Initiative

Submit the following documents by Wednesday, 8 April 2026:

- CBB Employment Application Form (Available online)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Two (2) current references (Both must be professional references)
- Copies of university transcripts, degrees, and any other personal certificates

Applications should be addressed to:

Manager, Human Resources Department
Central Bank of Belize
P.O. Box 852 or Gabourel Lane
Belize City, BELIZE

Ref: Supervisor- Accounts and Budget Department

Email: hr@centralbank.org.bz or online at www.centralbank.org.bz
(All applications will be held in strict confidence.)

Elections & Boundaries Officers Receive Certification

April 9, 2026 - Officers from the Elections and Boundaries Department have successfully completed a specialized training program delivered in partnership with Galen University, strengthening their capacity to manage electoral processes with accuracy, professionalism, and integrity. A total of sixteen officers successfully completed all course requirements and received certification.

The program, which commenced on October 5, 2024, brought together registering officers and assistant registering officers to take part in the university-led training. Despite a pause to accommodate the previous General Elections, the program resumed and concluded ahead of the Village Council Elections.

The training covered key areas central to the administration of elections and boundaries, including electoral law, voter registration systems, boundary management, dispute resolution, and election day operations. Participants also engaged in modules focused on leadership, communication, time management, emotional intelligence, and conflict resolution, strengthening both technical and practical aspects of their roles.

Hon. Kareem Musa, Minister of Immigration, Governance and Labour, emphasized the importance of the program in strengthening democratic systems.

"The work carried out by the Elections and Boundaries Department supports the foundation of our democracy. Free, fair, and transparent elections ensure that every Belizean's choice is taken into account. This training strengthens the ability of officers to carry out that responsibility with accuracy, discipline, and integrity," said Minister Musa.

Hon. Henry Charles Usher, Minister of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management, whose Ministry originally developed the program, highlighted the importance of investing in public officers.

"This program is a deliberate effort to strengthen the capacity of the public service. By equipping officers with the knowledge and skills required to manage electoral processes, we continue to strengthen our institutions and improve the delivery of services that are essential to the country," said Minister Usher.

The program delivered necessary skills and knowledge to uphold the democratic process and maintain public trust, emphasizing instruction in Good Governance, Ethics, and Transparency. Officers engaged in scenario-based courses designed to reinforce impartiality, accountability, and adherence to the rule of law in the execution of their duties.

The collaboration with Galen University provided academic structure and practical relevance, ensuring that officers could apply their learning directly to real-world electoral operations. Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird, Provost of Galen, noted the importance of academic partnership in advancing civil responsibility.

"We proudly recognize the success of these Election and Boundaries Officers whose commitment to learning and professional growth has been exemplary. Galen University is proud to support national development through innovative learning in Ethics, Good Governance, and Transparency."

Josephine Tamai, Chief Elections Officer, noted that the completion of the program reflects the dedication of officers who balanced training with ongoing responsibilities across the country.

The Government of Belize continues to invest in the Elections and Boundaries Department through training, system improvements, and expanded outreach, ensuring that officers remain equipped to manage evolving electoral demands and deliver services to the public with consistency and professionalism.

This initiative forms part of broader efforts to strengthen governance, improve institutional capacity, and support a modern electoral system that reflects the needs of Belize.

NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION
THE NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION
INVITES ALL BELIZEANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025
BELIZE@45
Theme Competition
GUIDELINES
Submissions must be no more than 10 words long.
Up to 3 submissions is allowed per person.
Use of AI for submissions is prohibited.
Deadline for submissions is 10th April 2026.
GRAND PRIZE
BZ $2,000
Make your submission at bit.ly/3ZFU7wj

BLUE BOND AND FINANCE PERMANENCE UNIT
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: PROCUREMENT OFFICER (TRAINEE)

Duty Station: Belize City

The Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit (BBFP), established within the Office of the Prime Minister, leads the coordination and implementation of Belize's Blue Bond commitments. The Unit ensures that the Government of Belize fulfils its obligations under the Blue Loan Agreement (BLA) and Conservation Funding Agreement (CFA), in partnership with the Belize Blue Investment Company (BIC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Additionally, the BBFP is also charged with pursuing an innovative new financing model: Project for Finance Permanence (PfP) along with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to further assist Belize in meeting and sustaining their Nationally Determine Contributions (NDCs) and Conservation goals.

Position Overview

We are seeking a motivated and detail-oriented **Procurement Officer (Trainee)** to support and progressively lead procurement activities across BBFP programs. This is an entry-level professional role designed to build strong procurement expertise through training, mentoring, and hands-on experience.

Key Responsibilities

- Support and manage procurement planning and scheduling
- Prepare procurement documents (RFQs, RFPs, TORs, contracts)
- Coordinate and support evaluation and selection processes
- Monitor contracts, deliverables, and supplier performance
- Maintain procurement records and support audit compliance
- Assist with logistics, reporting, and administrative processes
- Participate in training and capacity-building programs

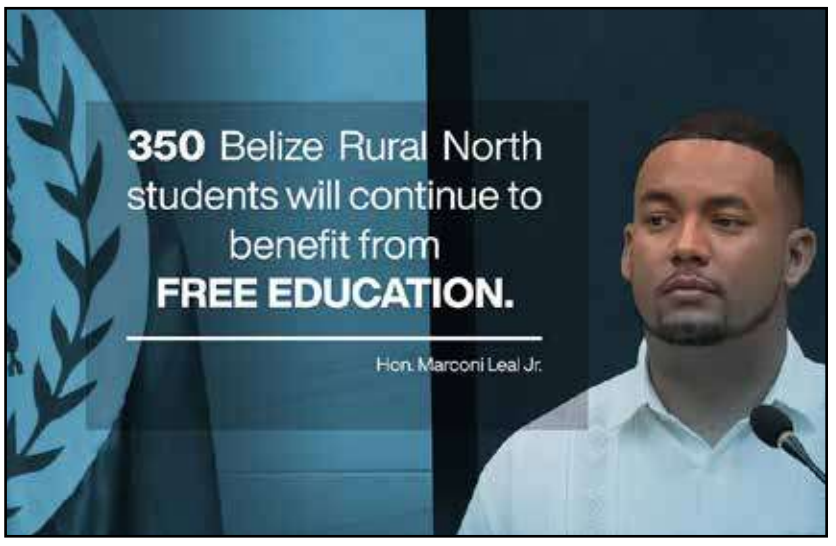
Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Finance, Accounting, Public Administration, or related field
- Minimum 2 years' experience in Administration, finance, procurement, or project support
- Strong skills in:
  - o Microsoft Office & document management
  - o Coordination, organization, and multitasking
  - o Clear report writing and communication

Interested applicants may request a copy of the Full Terms of Reference by **emailing:** projectmanager.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz with the subject line: "*Procurement Officer (Trainee) TOR.*" The Full TOR is also available on the **Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages.** Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, April 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**

All applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. The Committee will conduct due diligence to verify the information provided in the application and during the interview process.

Ministry of Human Development Hosts Happy Hearts Funday for Children in Care



March 31, 2026 - The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, through the Department of Human Services, successfully hosted the Happy Hearts Funday at Rendezvous Caye, a memorable and uplifting experience for 255 children from residential care homes and government-operated facilities across Belize. The event was supported by 130 dedicated caregivers, social workers, and staff who ensured the children enjoyed a safe, fun-filled day.

Children from AIM Belize, Hope Haven, Hopewell Children's Home, Liberty Children's Home, Marla's House of Hope, and Laugh Out Loud Children's Home joined residents from government-operated facilities, including Coral Grove, Mile 14, and the Dorothy Menzies Child Care Centre (DMCCC) for the special island excursion.

Activities included swimming, kite flying, volleyball, interactive games, and a range of entertainment options such as a water slide, bouncy house, cotton candy, popcorn, and snow cones. The children also participated in friendly competitions and prize giveaways, creating lasting memories and moments of pure happiness.

Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, delivered a warm, brief welcome to the children and spent the entire day engaging with them, interacting with caregivers, and supporting the activities. Her presence underscored the Ministry's continued commitment to ensuring children in care experience opportunities for joy, inclusion, and positive development. (post)

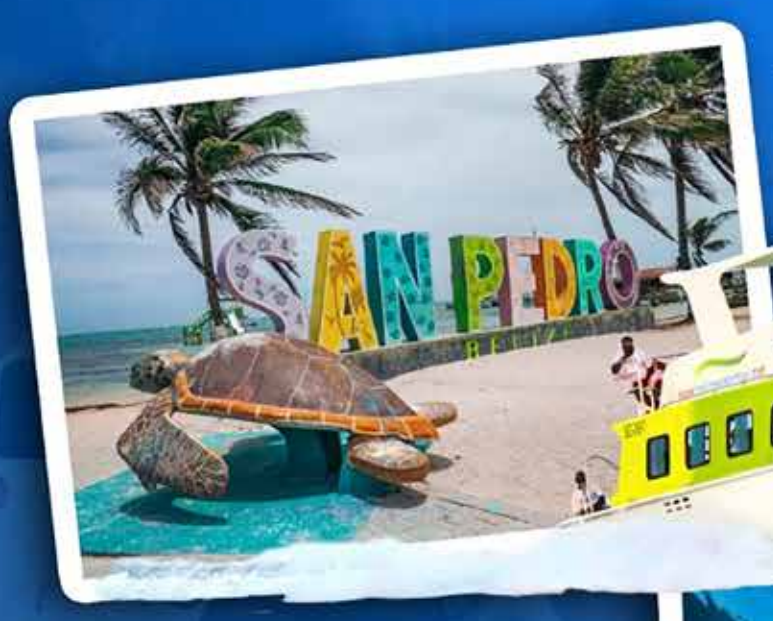
Belize Broadcasting Authority
INVITATION FOR TENDER
SALE OF VEHICLE
VEHICLE DETAILS
Make & Model: 2016 Ford Explorer
Color: Bronze
VIN: 1FM5K8DH1GGB99023
Engine: 4 Cylinders, 2.3L EcoBoost, Gasoline
Transmission: Automatic
Mileage: 124,649 Miles
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Vehicle runs and drives
Engine requires repairs
Sold on an "as is" basis
The Belize Broadcasting Authority (BBA) assumes no liability after sale
TERMS & CONDITIONS
Full payment required within five (5) working days after notification
The BBA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and may cancel the process at any time without obligation
Deadline: Friday, April 25th, 2026
INSPECTION DETAILS
Location: 61 Amara Avenue, Belize City
Dates: April 10th – April 25th, 2026
Contact: 223-3953
SUBMIT TO
Mr. Mark A. Chavarria
Belize Broadcasting Authority
4 Taiwan Street, Belize City
ChavarriaMA@gobmail.gov.bz

smart!
Bringing People Together

Smart
TRIO
GETAWAY

Every New Sign up gets a chance to win

Winner to be announced on April 10th, 2026



3-Day / 2-Night Hotel Accommodation in San Pedro

+$500 CASH

Round Trip for 3
& Snorkel Trip for 3

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